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26 March 1985

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA MEET TO PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS IN TRADE

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Text] President Belisario Betancur invited the peoples of Colombia and Venezuela to "break the artificial walls" between the two countries and to "seek harmonious and unifying solutions that will benefit all."

"We Venezuelans and Colombians must follow the mandate of the Liberator and formulate and decide upon a joint plan for the future, so that our future will be assured," stated the leader yesterday in Bogota at the opening ceremonies of a forum on economic relations between the two countries.

"Let us turn our eternal brotherhood into concrete action," he said, adding that "everything makes it mandatory that we understand the need for taking bold steps to intensify mutual exchanges. We have many more commonalities than differences. Let us get to know each other better, and develop our trade. A glance around us will tell us that everything unites us, not just our past, but also the common goals of the present and future."

In his speech, Betancur discussed recent trends in trade between Colombia and Venezuela. In 1982 it amounted to more than US \$900 million, as it continued its dynamic growth. In 1984 that trade amounted to US \$470 million, a significant figure but one that does not reflect the two nations' potential.

"The economies of Colombia and Venezuela exhibit a significant degree of compatibility, and in many aspects of mining, agriculture, industry, commerce and services, there is potential for an efficient division of labor," stated the president.

He pointed out that the two countries have signed far-reaching joint declarations whose aims are ambitious, but after they have been signed the countries have gotten bogged down in tariff problems or nationalist obstinacy that hinders true binational integration. "Let us be equal to the historical imperative, or one might even say, the strategic imperative that is imposed on us by history, by our common democratic present, and by the great future that we strive for," he emphasized.

Betancur stressed the need to promote the Zulia-Urena agroindustrial project for sugar production, and in that regard proposed that shareholders be called together in the near future reexamine the project's development and prospects.

He also proposed that an international border exhibition be organized, recalling that this kind of gathering has been very useful for bringing together businessmen and officials of the two countries and for promoting investment and trade.

Andean Group

The Colombian president indicated that in order to speed up subregional integration, his government has proposed various measures, including one to add greater flexibility to Decision 24 (Andean Capital Statute), one to strengthen the Andean Reserve Fund, and one to revise the sectorial industrial development programs.

He stated that more Andean multinational companies and new Colombian-Venezuelan companies should be established.

He indicated that it would be desirable to strengthen the Andean Reserve Fund by drawing on the international capital market and requesting contributions from the member countries when they are able to provide them.

The president stated that the sectorial industrial development programs should be managed more flexibly, and noted that industry should be protected more rationally, in a way that ensures compatibility between the development of the primary sector and that of the processing sector.

Foreign Debt

In his speech, the Colombian leader announced that Latin American countries will take a united stance with regard to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and the problem of the foreign debt, which amounts to more than US \$350 billion.

The president mentioned the foreign debt problem in the countries of the Andean Group, indicating that between 1978 and 1984 this debt doubled in size; it is now approaching US \$70 billion. The debt service grew even faster, at a rate higher than the growth rate of the subregion's exports.

He criticized the decision by Andean countries to curb intraregional trade for the purpose of saving foreign reserves.

Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez expressed opposition to the idea of bringing third countries in to mediate negotiations between his country and Colombia concerning the delineation of surface and underwater boundaries of the territorial sea, claiming that the most logical solution is direct talks between the two governments.

The Venezuelan statesman declared that the idea of solving Latin American border conflicts by taking a broad approach has been maturing, and indicated that until that approach is implemented "it is a farse to talk of integration."

In his speech before the binational forum, Perez stated that "relations between Colombia and Venezuela have been marked by misunderstandings in connection with border problems for which no satisfactory means for a bilateral solution has been found. Irrational stances have complicated the issue further," he noted.

The former president also discussed the problems of the Andean Group and the situation created by the member countries' adopting protectionist measures that interrupt the normal flow of commerce in the subregion. He indicated that these nations should try to overcome these difficulties and allow commercial and economic exchange to regain its past dynamism. In that regard, he particularly emphasized the creation of the Andean peso as a symbolic currency to facilitate that exchange, and to eliminate dependence on the dollar.

He asserted that Colombians and Venezuelans "have succumbed to mistrust and defensiveness, generating feelings over the years that have hampered the natural impulse toward unity, kept us from achieving our common goals and made it difficult to attain objectives that gave historical continuity to the role played by our fatherlands, our resources, in the construction of that other fatherland, the great fatherland of Latin America."

He repudiated the protectionism that Latin American countries have traditionally resorted to and that recently has become intensified among the Andean countries themselves, destroying the limited but encouraging progress that had been made by the subregional organization in terms of border trade.

He called upon the two brother countries "to go beyond speeches and hypocrisy to the promulgation and enforcement of programs to develop agriculture and to expand the industry that is based on the processing of raw materials we can obtain from the renewable and non-renewable resources of our countries."

He asserted that there are tremendous obstacles in the way, and recalled that Colombia and Venezuela have not signed a single commercial agreement in their history, while they have entered into such agreements with distant countries such as China.

"Enough with the Bolivarian rhetoric. We are overwhelmed by circumstances that require action to improve cooperation between our countries," he stated in an aside from his speech.

Agreements for Binational Enterprises Defined

As a consequence of this meeting, the two governments laid the groundwork for proceeding to establish binational enterprises in the border area and lifting existing mutual restrictions to trade. Thus, on 23 February the two countries' ministers of development and agriculture will meet in San Cristobal to create a binational reforestation enterprise for the Orinoco Basin; tomorrow, Friday, the shareholders of the Azurca sugar complex in Urena will meet to plan the reactivation of that enterprise; the Colombian coffee growers' association will be a shareholder of a plant in El Tachira that will freeze-dry coffee for export, using Colombian coffee as a raw material; and a study

has begun with a view to eliminating the trade restrictions that affect the two countries.

As for the future of the Andean region, it was agreed that each government is to explain its interpretation of the reforms of the Cartagena Agreement. In this area, Colombia set forth five points concerning the modification of the capital statute: domestic investment should not be displaced by the influx of new foreign capital; there should be a transfer of technology; this new investment should bring in foreign reserves; it should generate employment; and it should constitute a real new investment.

Colombia proposed sincere, unequivocal and genuine actions as elementary conditions for the normalization and strengthening of bilateral trade.

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CSO: 3348/404

ARGENTINA

CONCEPCION: 'SHOCK' TREATMENT IN RESERVE TO FIGHT INFLATION

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 13 Feb 85 p 16

[Text] Secretary of Domestic Trade Alfredo Concepcion announced the provisions of the new price control system that will take effect as of the first of this month, and expressed his concern about the rate of inflation. "It should be remedied gradually," he said, "as everyone seems to agree, and if that fails, shock treatment should be administered."

The official explained that given Argentina's current inflation rate, "investment is impossible, which dooms the future of the economy." He warned that "a severe policy to hold down prices and wages could have serious financial repercussions and could dampen demand for the goods produced by our businesses."

New Price Regulations

Concepcion indicated that as a result of talks with the representatives of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), especially with Gilberto Montagna, an agreement was reached on the provisions of the regulations that will replace Resolution 25.

The secretary of domestic trade explained that the new resolution stipulates that all price increases for products subject to price agreements between that entity and chambers or businesses will be implemented this month, following the guideline of 12 percent plus half the agreed upon recovery.

The rest of the recovery, if it exceeds 5 percent, will be passed on to the prices in two installments, 30 days and 60 days after the end of the recovery program called for in the agreements, which expire in March or April of next year. If the balance is less than 5 percent, it will be recovered in just one installment.

The resolution also states that to the extent that supplies are adequate, deregulation will be scheduled in approximately 120 days from that date. If, on the other hand, there are irregularities in supplies, the product in question may be subject to controls.

Concepcion also explained that the new regulations do not affect products that have recently been deregulated.

The secretary of domestic trade also stated that the sales figures contained in Resolution 10/83 will be updated, so that larger and smaller businesses can be distinguished. He said that at the request of the UIA, the price ceiling system will be reviewed.

Specifically, guidelines for prices of products such as sausages, baking powder, sweet potato and quince puddings, teabags and batter bread, will be studied, he concluded.

Prices in February

With regard to trends in consumer prices throughout this month, Concepcion stated that "I would be satisfied if inflation dropped by 7 points, give or take a few," and commented that in the first week the counter price of meat rose, while the price of meat at the Liniers Market declined.

8926

CSO: 3348/400

ARGENTINA

GOVERNMENT DECREE GRANTS BENEFITS TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 15 Feb 85 p 11

[Text] The industrial promotion system set in motion by Decree 261/85, which was signed by President Alfonsin and covers 13 provinces, specifies that the benefits can be granted only to industrial projects that entail the installation of a new productive unit, or the expansion of an existing one.

Thus, in order to be eligible, the equipment must be entirely new and unused, but "in exceptional cases" the officials administering the program may authorize the installation of used equipment.

Benefits

- Exemption from the capital tax for a graduated period of 15 years.
- Total exemption from the stamp tax on partnership contracts and their extensions, also for a graduated period of 15 years.
- Exemption from or reduction of import duties, excluding duties for importing capital goods.
- The exemption will extend to spare parts and accessories that are needed to run the facilities, up to 5 percent of the value of the capital goods.
- Exemption from the Value-Added Tax (IVA) on sales made by suppliers of capital goods produced in the country to the projects subject to promotion.
- Deduction from the profits tax, according to the following terms:
 - a) up to 100 percent of sums invested in housing or expanded housing for dependents of personnel, only for so-called "economical" housing.
 - b) up to 65 percent of sums paid to persons residing in the provinces, for salaries, wages and their corresponding fringe benefits. Also included are professional fees and labor for services.
 - c) up to 75 percent of sums invested in durable goods associated with the activity subject to promotion.

d) One hundred percent of the share of the promoted firm's profits given to professional, blue- and white-collar employees.

--Exemption from the IVA on domestic sales, according to a zoning scale, of products subject to promotion that use "a significant percentage of regional raw materials."

--Investors in the firms subject to promotion may opt for one of the following privileges:

a) to defer up to 75 percent of the amount of direct capital contributions to the sums they must pay in taxes on profits or capital, or the IVA. This amount may be applied to whichever tax the taxpayer chooses.

b) to deduct from taxable income, for the purposes of calculating the profits tax, the sums actually invested during the fiscal year as direct capital contributions or subscribed capital stock, as long as the investments are maintained as assets of the owners for 3 years.

--The program establishes a percentage scale according to the different regions subject to promotion, for eligibility for benefits. The border areas, for example, are eligible for 100 percent of the benefits.

--Similarly, it sets forth mechanisms to enable the firms subject to promotion under previous programs to maintain their benefits.

--The firms that are in the process of obtaining promotional benefits may choose to participate in the new program.

--To be eligible for benefits, the investors included in the program must contribute at least 40 percent of the total amount of the project from their own funds. Capital derived from the benefits established by the program will not be counted as a capital contribution.

8926

CS0: 3348/400

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

PREBISCH ON DEBT--Presidential adviser Raul Prebisch said that Argentina must take a series of measures to curb inflation, with or without the International Monetary Fund, and that after a year of hard work, results have been obtained that are sometimes not understood by the public. He noted that the lessons learned will make it possible to correct some policies. Prebisch, who made these statements at the Ezeiza Airport, acknowledged that the wage adjustment systems that have been applied in recent months do not constitute a solution, and cannot be judged in isolation. Regarding the possibility of reforming the financial system, he stressed that, like other measures, it is one of the fundamental steps in the context of a short-term program. When asked about the expectations that have been engendered in connection with the upcoming meeting of the Cartagena Consensus, he indicated that the previous conviction that the problem of the debt must be viewed from a political standpoint will be confirmed. He stated that this is a political problem that requires a political solution, but "so far, unfortunately, there are no indications that the creditors perceive it as such; but I think that is a mistake." [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Feb 85 p 12] 8926

CSO: 3348/400

BOLIVIA

COD BRANCH REMOVES ORURO OFFICIALS

PY021631 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Right now the city of Oruro has no prefect or mayor. The Departmental Labor Federation [COD] has made the drastic decision not to recognize the two officials and to occupy their offices. The decision was made at the request of a departmental labor meeting because of the arbitrary measures taken by the prefect and the mayor. The Oruro COD maintains that under no circumstances will the two officials be permitted to return to their offices.

The COD has provisionally entrusted the prefect post to the police commander of the department.

This is the latest report by our correspondent in Oruro:

[Begin recording] Mr (Jose Cadima), one of the COD executives, has stated that at the general labor meeting to be held today it is possible that a list of names be drawn up and discussed. The list will be submitted for consideration by the government for the appointment of a mayor. He added that the appointment of the prefect is left to the exclusive determination of the government, but he stressed that a competent person should be appointed for the post. We will not suspend our measures until we learn about the appointment of the new mayor and prefect, the labor leader stressed.

Radio Panamericana has reported from Oruro. [End recording]

CSO: 3348/449

BOLIVIA

MINERS AWAITING GOVERNMENT ACTION ON YEAR-OLD TARIFF BILL

La Paz HOY in Spanish 11 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] In over a year and a half, the government has been unable to enact the Mining Tariff that was designed to facilitate imports of materials and inputs for this sector.

The nationalized mining companies as well as private ones are constantly criticizing the government for its incompetence, inefficiency and laxity, particularly on the part of the Finance Ministry, where the study and draft decree that would implement the Mining Tariff are still awaiting action.

Background

Sources in these mining subsectors (Bolivian Mining Corporation, medium-sized mining firms and small mining companies) told HOY that these studies and drafts were submitted to the ministry for its consideration approximately 19 months ago.

Since that time, seven undersecretaries (an average term of less than 3 months for each official) passed through that ministry. Each, in response to pressure, was supposed to "review" the drafts for the tariff and issue an opinion.

In fact, none of them managed to complete the review, so all this time has passed, with the resulting damage to programs for supplying equipment, machinery, materials, tools and inputs.

Andean Tariff

These sources commented on the Andean tariff designed to protect the industry in this subregion. Pursuant to that provision, in the specific case of Bolivia a subsidiary of the Atlas Copco firm was set up to assemble mining machinery. The purchase of that machinery was mandatory, or else high tariffs had to be paid for imported machinery.

In fact, Atlas Copco shut down more than 2 years ago, and the government continues to prohibit the importation of equipment similar to what that firm made, and continues to charge the tariff when foreign purchases are made. All this must be rectified, but the means to do so is still "under review," they commented.

8926

CSO: 3348/399

BOLIVIA

BUSINESS SECTOR SHUTS DOWN TO PROTEST ECONOMIC MEASURES

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] As predicted, the first effect of the government's surprise economic measures of last Saturday was a deliberate and overt paralyzation of commerce of various types in the city yesterday, preventing the public from purchasing the most basic goods.

The capricious shut-down of local commercial establishments that refused to serve the public was particularly evident among pharmacies, restaurants, grocery stores, market stalls, bakeries and bazaars. In addition, public transportation ground to a halt.

This inactivity contrasted with recent statements by the ministers of industry and commerce and planning and coordination, who announced just the opposite. This contradiction irritated residents who, unable to buy the most indispensable food items, lodged protests and complaints, to no avail.

The almost simultaneous disappearance of uniformed authorities, who only repress the classes from which they emerged, reinforced the excesses of the businessmen, since the few who did serve the public did so by blatantly exploiting the confused consumers.

The irregular operations of local banks deprived the city of its usual speed and mobility; the only movement was by public workers coming and going, and by private workers who, given the prevailing confusion, did not do their jobs promptly and carefully.

Public agencies provided limited service to the public because of the threat of sudden stoppages that kept officials guessing. One example was the city government, which shut down at noon, preventing people from providing services in that department.

The omnipresent street vendors who cover the main arteries of downtown and sell contraband, giving this city the look of an Andean village, were charging exorbitant prices for a variety of merchandise because of the lack of police patrols and enforcement.

All these merchants, who are flouting the law by abandoning the public whose purchases make them rich, especially with regard to sales of food, medicine and other essentials, kept their businesses closed, arguing that they were doing so to "revamp the structure of costs and prices as a corollary of the devaluation."

It was exactly 1530 hours when the Ministry of Social Benefits and Public Health, which has a vital and delicate mission in society, locked its doors at the Plaza del Estudiante with chains and padlocks, playing into the hands of the pharmacies. Not a single official at that ministry had enough compassion for his fellow men to urge these commercial establishments (which theoretically fulfill a lofty social and humanitarian function) at least to serve those who urgently needed medicine.

That is not to mention what happened in the markets, inns and other typical businesses that sell food of different kinds.

Among other abuses that took place on this bitter Monday, when the population was subjected to unscrupulous measures, even the women who sell food on the streets, plazas and roads calculated their new prices in dollars. This practice is becoming more widespread, but it has nothing to do with the supply and demand of potatoes and other native products. It reflects only the bad faith and the unscrupulous behavior of the "Khateras."

In general, the heated and disturbing situation that prevailed yesterday, Monday, must be prevented today and in the future by the uniformed authorities, who when faced with an opportunity to unite with their people in stamping out institutionalized crime, sidestep their duties and repress and threaten the people, as if they were immune to the vicissitudes of the nation.

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CSO: 3348/399

BOLIVIA

PEASANTS ACCUSE MINISTER OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

PY012140 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] There has been a meeting between the industry and commerce minister and members of the Agricultural Peasant Corporation [Corporacion Agropecuaria Campesina--CORACA].

This morning, the CORACA leaders burst into the minister's office, demanding the normalization of the supply of staples. Hugo Montero Mur, who was extremely annoyed, addressed the CORACA members in the following way:

[Begin Montero recording] From the beginning the truth has been that we cannot continue with this carnival, my dear friends. We cannot continue with demonstrations of this type. We cannot continue without working. We cannot continue in disorder and indiscipline. Those who stir up this type of situation here are people who want to live without working, who want to live off the situation.

No one has asked me for this audience. No ministry official has invited the representatives of the press. This is why this type of scandal is brought about, not in order to solve the problems of the farm workers but in order to demagogically agitate and obtain publicity. What is the intention of this, what is it we want? Don't you believe that the ministry would have supplied staples, if it had had the means to do so? What does the ministry gain by stocking and accumulating staples? The thing is that many things cannot be given, because there aren't any. And there aren't any because nobody works. [End recording]

In turn, Clemente Ramos, a CORACA executive rejected the industry minister's expressions. He said that they were not extremists or loafers and accused the minister of acting without responsibility.

[Begin recording] [Ramos] The minister has made serious criticisms against the peasant class which we, as its representatives, do not accept. I would like to ask you, companeros, are you extremists?

[Several voices] No, no, never!

[Ramos] Companeros, are you workers or loafers?

[Several voices] [Words indistinct]

[Ramos] I believe, Mr Minister, that none of the companeros present here follows the extremist line. They are all small farmers and workers. Who has made possible the democratic liberties enjoyed by the country? If Mr Siles Zuazo is president and if you are sitting here as a minister it is thanks to the efforts, sacrifices, suffering, and blood of the peasant companeros. You have no right to insult our labor movement. [End recording]

Clemente Ramos then stated that in the last few months the CORACA had received nothing from the government, particularly not from the Industry Ministry. He harshly told Minister Montero:

[Begin Ramos recording] The industry and commerce minister has acted in an irresponsible way in handling the supply of staples. You have conducted a policy to destabilize the labor movement. Mr Minister, you are conducting an antipeasant policy. Only thanks to the Bolivian Labor Confederation, CORACA has received 1,000 quintals [product not mentioned], but nothing from the Industry and Commerce Ministry or from the Bolivian Development Corporation. The only problem which brings us here, Mr Minister, is the supply situation. It has nothing to do with politics. We peasants are here only to demand supplies for the rural areas. [End recording]

There was an impasse between Minister Hugo Montero Mur and the CORACA leaders in this unusual episode this morning at the ministry. The incident has given rise to much discussion.

CSO: 3348/449

BOLIVIA

GOVERNMENT DECREES MEASURES TO INDUCE EXPORTS

La Paz HOY in Spanish 10 Feb 85 p 4

[Text] In order to promote the country's exports, "an immediate use allocation is established for the traditional and non-traditional exports sectors, equal to 30 and 40 percent, respectively, of the net delivered value of their exports of goods and services," for both the private and public sectors.

The text of Supreme Decree 20707 reads as follows:

Whereas, It is necessary to promote the country's export activity in order to carry out a genuine reactivation of the productive apparatus while also increasing the absorption of manpower; and

Whereas, Due to the difference between the official exchange rate at which exports must turn over 100 percent of their foreign currency earnings and the exchange rate on the parallel market, there is a real disincentive for legal exports, and, on the contrary, an incentive to carry out extralegal transactions with foreign countries; and

Whereas, It is necessary to provide the export sectors with an allocation for immediate use of the foreign currency earned by them, in addition to other financial incentives to reactivate the country's production; therefore

The Council of Ministers decrees:

Article 1. An immediate use allocation is established for the traditional and non-traditional exports sectors, equal to 30 and 40 percent, respectively, of the net delivered value of their exports of goods and services, for both the private and public sectors.

In this regard, the non-traditional private export sector shall pay to the Central Bank of Bolivia 60 percent of the foreign currency earnings it receives from exports of goods and services, while the traditional private export sector, with the exception of mining, shall pay 70 percent of said earnings. These mandatory percentages shall be paid to the Central Bank of Bolivia at the official exchange rate that is in effect when the transaction takes place.

Article 2. For the use by public enterprises of the 30 percent corresponding to traditional exports and the 40 percent corresponding to non-traditional exports, in accordance with current administrative norms and regulations, 100 percent of the net value of these exports shall be paid to the Central Bank of Bolivia, which shall immediately issue certificates in foreign currency that may be used for the importation of raw materials and inputs for production, by opening letters of credit with the necessary intervention of the Central Bank of Bolivia.

Article 3. If the public sector exporter should have no need for the corresponding percentage of foreign currency, it may require the Central Bank of Bolivia to make 100 percent of its payment in national currency, at the official exchange rate that is in effect on the date of payment.

Article 4. Businesses that purchase and market goods and services for export shall pay the same percentages to their suppliers, with respect to the amount delivered, in accordance with the provisions of the preceding articles. Such payments between exporters and suppliers shall not exceed the 30 and 40 percent indicated in Article 1 of this Decree.

Article 5. The Central Bank of Bolivia shall establish a mechanism to finance pre-export activities and working capital for the exporting firms.

Article 6. An amnesty period of 30 days after the effective date of this Decree is declared for the payment of the 4 percent fine set forth in Supreme Decree No. 19250 of 6 November 1982, for failure to turn over foreign currency earnings to the Central Bank of Bolivia, so that exporters may take advantage of the mechanism created in this Decree.

Article 7. The sectors that export hydrocarbons, ores and metals shall be subject to specific regulations issued by the Central Bank of Bolivia in coordination with the Ministries of Energy and Hydrocarbons and Mining and Metallurgy.

Article 8. The private export sector, upon receiving an immediate percentage of its foreign currency earnings from the sale of goods and services abroad, shall be excluded from the allocation of foreign reserves by the Exchange Transaction and Supervision Commission; on the contrary, it shall submit the corresponding import vouchers for the release of the aforementioned percentages for immediate use.

Article 9. All legal provisions contrary to this Decree are hereby repealed.

The minister of state for finances is hereby authorized to enforce this Supreme Decree.

Done at the Government Palace in the city of La Paz this eighth day of the month of February of nineteen eighty-five.

8926

CSO: 3348/399

JPRS-LAM-85-027
26 March 1985

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

NETHERLANDS DONATES AIRPLANE--The Netherlands Government has donated to Bolivia a Fokker F-27 airplane which will be used by Lloyd Aereo Boliviano to cover the country's air routes. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Jan 85 p 18]

CSO: 3348/449

CHILE

GOVERNMENT TO CREATE NEW JOBS IN GOLD MINING INDUSTRY

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Feb 85 pp C-1, C-6

[Text] A total of 500 million pesos will be invested in 1985 in the National Gold Plan; it has been estimated that 11,000 new jobs will be created in all of the country's regions, according to sources at ENAMI (National Mining Enterprise).

These figures signify a major increase, compared to last year, when 202 million were spent and when 4,821 persons were employed. Besides, foreign exchange was generated in the amount of 270 million pesos for the national economy as a result of the sale of gold.

At that time, the operation began with 14 gold washing units which had been used as such in 1930, after the saltpeter crisis. Today the company has 124 units and another 358 units are being studied and are soon to be installed.

The initiative of starting the precious mineral crafts washing units represents the contribution which ENAMI is making to the general manpower employment plan for the additional objective of exploiting the country's natural wealth and generating economic resources.

The studies began in August 1983 and their implementation was started in 1984. It was hoped that 8,900 jobs could be created with an approved budget of 175 million pesos. Only 4,821 jobs were created and a little more than 200 million were spent, reaching only nine regions since regions I, II, and VI were left out due to lack of information.

Productive Work

This program is making a significant contribution to the solution of the unemployment problem. In this connection, more than 4,000 persons already have the opportunity to earn between 300 and 400 pesos per day, collecting gold in the washing units.

Manpower hiring is handled through the various townships, by means of public announcements. Individuals selected--preferably those who live near the washing plants--get a subsidy of 2,000 pesos per month for a maximum period of 6 months. During that time they are trained by experts hired by ENAMI.

The local city government must also hire the experts necessary to take care of the management and supervision of the washing units.

In this connection, ENAMI has established the maximum salaries of these persons at 70,000 pesos at this time for the managers, 50,000 for the supervisors, and 20,000 for the foremen.

The miner is the owner of the gold he obtains from his work and he is free to sell it to anybody he wants to sell it to. ENAMI has determined here that the maximum daily extraction volume is to be 300 milligrams which can be obtained as the result of the removal of 1.5-2 cubic meters of sand. According to these figures, if a person works 25 days per month, he can make 10,000 pesos.

Now ENAMI calculates that this maximum permitted mineral quantity can be obtained during the average working day and estimates that most of the miners collect quantities larger than those authorized and that further increases their monthly income.

ENAMI's Role

ENAMI is under the Ministry of Mining and is responsible for nationwide coordination of the implementation of the gold plan which is being developed on the level of the regional intendancies.

Before that, it was the organization that assembled the geological background information and studied the economic feasibility of these projects. It drafted the annual program in conjunction with the regional coordinators; the information is then forwarded to the Ministry of Mining and from there to the Ministry of Interior. After the national project has been approved, ENAMI sends each intendant the budget and the project approved for his region.

It also plays a role in the purchase of gold from the miners who, although they are free to sell their gold, many times prefer it as a buyer because it offers greater confidence.

That agency also contributes to investments in the project. This year, it must allocated 31 million pesos which will be spent on technical assistance, coordinated on the national level by the organization. This money is also used in sampling, testing, and analysis of mineralogical material and the establishment of the proposed mine.

This latter point means that ENAMI applies for the mining concessions in accordance with the corresponding law. This is being done with a view to selling them later to the benefit of the miners who work in the washing units, either through direct sale or through free cession, considering the possibility that they might become permanent workers.

A Gold Town

In addition to including all regions this year, increasing the budget, considering the installation of more washing units, and planning the creation of a larger number of jobs, the Gold Plan calls for a pilot project to create a gold town in Aisen.

Likewise in accordance with the southern area settlement plan, it is hoped that it will be possible to install a housing development for approximately 2,000 persons, starting with the construction of two houses to shelter the team that will perform the studies and prepare the site.

It is then hoped that it will be possible to bring 300 miners and their families in, plus the men necessary to provide minimum services at the site.

The total budget for this year is 60 million pesos for Region III; 101 million for Region IV; and about 100 million for Region V and the Metropolitan Region.

This distribution of funds which are available is due to the concentration of the population, the need for jobs, and the economic feasibility of the washing units that are in these regions.

5058

CSO: 3348/412

CHILE

STEEL COMPANY SCHEDULES NEW COKE PLANT FOR HUACHIPATO

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Feb 85 pp C-1, C-4

[Text] At the end of this month, the manager of the CAP (Pacific Steel Company, Incorporated) will take up the project for the construction of a new coking plant in Huachipato which is intended to replace the old plant that has been in operation for the past 35 years.

According to background information obtained by EL MERCURIO, the new industrial complex will have a capacity of 500,000 tons per year and the amount of the planned investment will come to \$145,860,000.

The installation of a continuous galvanizing line is also contemplated, likewise at Huachipato, at an approximate cost of \$15 million.

The project, it was announced, will follow the plans for the restoration of the infrastructure which are carried out by the enterprise in a routine fashion; this will involve the biggest renewal effort of the past several years.

It was explained that the Huachipato installations have a certain lifetime and that the wear and tear resulting from its daily operation down through the years requiring its renovation in spite of the fact that the complex mentioned still meets the iron and steel production requirements specified in the CAP plan, as was pointed out.

The coking plant distills the coal on the basis of which that fuel is produced, plus gas and other byproducts, such as tar and thickened oil. It consists of a total of 70 vertical furnaces and its capacity comes to 280,000 tons per year. It employs 160 workers.

The coke is a solid, light, and porous product which is obtained from the roasting of certain categories of mineral coal.

When the sources were questioned as to whether the new installations will signify an increase in CAP output, they pointed out that this depends on the alternative which will be approved in the end. If the plant with a capacity of 500,000 tons per year is approved, it was indicated, then the output levels will have to be increased; and if the capacity of the current plant is retained, the same will happen as far as the output is concerned.

It was repeated that all of this is now being studied and that the issue will be resolved shortly.

Other replacements carried out by CAP have to do with the inside linings of the furnaces which make up the coking plant, as well as the lamination system.

The furnaces mentioned are made up of refractory bricks which must withstand temperatures of between 2,000 and 3,000 degrees Centigrade to make it possible to melt the iron.

Last year the company's sales exceeded 400,000 tons of steel products. The enterprise however has the capacity to produce 1 million tons of iron in its blast furnaces. From that amount it would be possible, through an oxygen process, to obtain 800,000 tons of raw steel and from that figure, in turn, following the respective process, it would be possible to get approximately 650,000 tons of rolled products.

5058

CSO: 3348/412

CHILE

BRIEFS

COPPER DEPOSIT EXPLOITATION PLANNED--A new copper mineral will be strip-mined near the town of Mamina. This is the Cerro Colorado project which belongs to a three-part company made up of the Production Development Corporation--which will contribute \$30 million--the KFW [Reconstruction Credit Institution] of West Germany, and a Finnish agency. The deposit basically involves sulfurs, with mineral reserves estimated at 70 million tons and a copper grade of approximately 1.3 percent. In addition to that metal, it contains small quantities of gold and molybdenum. The mineral is located in Mamina 120 kilometers to the east of that city. The project calls for the exploitation of the deposit by means of the open-cut method and the construction of a concentration plant with a daily processing capacity of 5,000 tons of mineral. The main investments in the infrastructure include the construction of a 80-kilometer water pipeline and installations for the storage and loading of concentrates in Iquique. It was announced that the start of operations at the deposit has been scheduled for the first half of this year. Jorge Gonzalez, the regional director of CORFO [Production Development Corporation], said that the Cerro Colorado project implies an investment of \$250 million. At this time, a loan application to finance the operation has been filed with the BID (Inter-American Development Bank). [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Feb 85 p A-1] 5058

CSO: 3348/412

COLOMBIA

FIRST COAL SHIPMENT FROM EL CERREJON SCHEDULED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Next Saturday, 23 February, the first shipment of coal produced in the northern area of the El Cerrejon mines in the department of La Guajira, will finally be made. This will mark a new stage in Colombia's economic history.

Officials at Intercor and Colombian Coal, Inc. (CARBOCOL) confirmed that on the 23rd of this month the first shipment of the mineral, amounting to 30,000 tons, will be made under a program that calls for exports of 30 million tons this year. The program envisions 30 years of coal exports, based on estimates that these deposits contain more than 3 billion tons of coal.

The first shipment will be sent off in a special ceremony to be attended by President Betancur, cabinet ministers, high government officials, political and labor leaders. The country thus has a new and major source of foreign reserves, which will generate more than \$1.5 billion for Colombia by the end of this decade.

Thanks to the efforts of the government and the activities carried out by CARBOCOL and its foreign partner, Intercor, exports of the mineral were able to begin a year earlier than planned.

Sales of coal have already been arranged with Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Israel and other countries.

8926

CSO: 3348/404

COLOMBIA

REORGANIZATION TO SPEED JUDICIAL PROCESS, ELIMINATE BRIBERY

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 85 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Article by German Acero Espinosa]

[Text] The practice of bribery, which made history in our court system, has just been dealt a serious setback by the Justice Ministry, which has set up the Judicial Office. Among its objectives is to straighten out and streamline jurisdiction and to eliminate problems such as suspects with the same names, especially in carrying out arrest warrants.

By drafting 30 special forms for processing requests for arrest orders, cancellations of such orders, personal records, briefs and trial assignments, the office seeks to reorganize how certain tools, such as the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] computer in Eldorado, are used.

EL TIEMPO has learned that the computer currently has stored some 370,000 arrest orders against individuals charged with committing crimes in the Penal Code. Some 250,000 are still in force, and 150 or more a day arrive at the F-2 or the DAS from the courts.

Of greater concern is that under the letter A, for example, there are 14,500 arrest orders pending action, with 2 Orlando Acostas, another 2 Orlando Acosta Diazes, 2 Jose Arbalaezes, 2 Jose Horacio Salgado Arbalaezes, and so on.

In the future the Judicial Office will send the aforementioned forms to the judge with complete information on the person or persons for whom an arrest warrant has been issued, so that no difficulties arise, especially for people who are traveling and who by chance have the same name as appears in the DAS computer in Eldorado.

The office will distribute requests for both arrest warrants, personal records and technical support among judges and security agencies to streamline the judicial process, using mechanisms such as the 16 existing forms.

The office's new director, Roberto Ramirez, told EL TIEMPO that it is going to systematize procedures and create national law enforcement standards.

It will also see to it that judicial proceedings are properly scheduled and executed and will try to unburden the courts of minor tasks.

It will also assess current processes and procedures in the administration of justice and propose the changes and reforms that it deems appropriate, always with an eye towards reducing the court case load.

It will have an information and arrest warrant section, a judicial and prison procedures section, a technical support section and a confiscations section. It will also have branches such as for staff, warehouse and supplies, transportation and maintenance, and filing and statistics.

One of its main goals is to do away with the big-money case-assignment racket. Each case will now be assigned in less than a minute. A form will be fed into the computer, which will assign the case at random using a logarithmic system.

It will also put an end to the "business" of tickets for prison visits. The tickets will now be issued by computer, and the person requesting a visit will simply show up at the jail and appear on a screen, which in practice will be their permission to enter.

Another important function will be to coordinate judicial activities and procedures and support measures so that criminal actions are carried forward promptly, efficiently and conscientiously.

It will also furnish personal records in timely fashion and coordinate with security agencies in connection with arrest warrants issued by judges.

It will streamline the judicial or imprisonment proceedings that are routinely carried out in the judge's chambers, by developing word processing programs, models and practices that are repetitive and standardized.

It will have a minimum of scientific and technical units, equipment and material, especially in the field of criminology, so that investigations can be conducted quickly and effectively. It will remove confiscated and attached goods from the courts and make sure that they are stored in organized, safe places. Its special function will be to store, safeguard and return items seized during judicial actions.

It will enforce the policies and standards in personnel management that apply to the Judicial Office's staff and will promptly furnish the items and equipment requested by judicial offices.

It will also provide timely and efficient transportation service to the courts that request it and will maintain and repair the fleet of vehicles assigned to the Judicial Office. It will, within 24 hours, furnish the information required for judicial proceedings.

8743

CSO: 3348/405

COLOMBIA

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT FOR BARTER SYSTEM EXPORTS ELIMINATED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Feb 85 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Text] The government's Export Promotion Fund (PROEXPO) has decided to eliminate the development credit for goods exported under the barter system, arguing that by law it cannot finance transactions that do not bring foreign exchange into the country.

Its decision does not affect the compensation system, because as we know, it does generate foreign exchange, inasmuch as goods are exported for an amount of money not necessarily equal to the value of the imports that are part of the transaction.

EL SIGLO also learned that it has been made obligatory to export \$2 worth of goods for each dollar of imports, and the ratio will be increased to the extent necessary.

As to eliminating the CERT for trade under the SEIC as well, the paper was told that if there are complaints, "I don't think that they would be coming as much from exporters as from importers, because what exporters were doing was making profits from the CERT that they earned and from selling foreign exchange at a price higher than the official price of the Exchange Certificate."

"Importers surely have reason to criticize this move because they are no longer buying dollars to which they previously did not have relatively easy access."

Exporters are in the same situation as before, that is to say, receiving the same benefits from PROEXPO, credit, the Vallejo Plan, CERT, overseas marketing research, etc.

"Now they are simply being told: If you want to sell foreign exchange to an importer for bringing in something, primarily raw materials, or if you want to import machinery or something you need in your business, you can either make use of or waive the CERT. Use it if you export only and do not conduct the two transactions simultaneously, or if you want to do them simultaneously, you simply don't earn the

CERT, but you'll see how much you were saving by using your own foreign exchange or selling it to someone else."

EL SIGLO was also told that it is not true that importers have become exporters, because for the most part they are two individuals or corporations who combine their efforts, with one exporting and the other selling imported goods.

The Two to One Ratio

After justifying the government's decision to demand a two to one ratio in trade, our source indicated:

"The country needs foreign exchange, an increase in exports. The government wants to boost exports and has said that for each dollar of imports that we let in under this special system, we are going to try and export \$2, so that we can somehow correct the current deficit. Because if we simply keep on spending each dollar that we export, we will always be in the same situation. The point is to keep more and more dollars here to balance our payments.

"Over time the requirement might become more stringent than the two-to-one ratio. But there is no reason for exporters to be hurt. The measure does not discourage exports, because the incentives existed previously. What exporters had, and not all of them took advantage of it, was the chance to make additional profits or to transfer an entire deal or their quota of foreign exchange to importers. Not all exporters did so, even though it would seem the thing to do," the paper was told.

The Exporters Speak

The exporters whom EL SIGLO consulted about the decisions that the government has been making since October and that were not made public, said that "the government has taken a step backwards and decided that it had better do away with it had called an extraordinary innovation."

They indicated that the fictitious transactions about which there has been so much talk (sham transactions to justify imports) and that have seemingly prompted these decisions, ought to be investigated case by case and punished as severely as the law provides, if they really exist, because the country is being hurt the most by the blanket approach that the government is taking.

"Exports are going through a difficult stretch. We are not importing what the country needs. With the SEIC we could be looking at a major recovery, but now the CERT and the development credit have been abolished before any improvement in other areas, while exports remain dangerously sluggish," union representatives noted.

Our source in the government felt that the exporters' initial displeasure was to be expected, "but once they study the measures, they will reach the same conclusion that the government did. The point is not to discourage exporters but to give them additional incentives to export more than they intend to."

8743

CSO: 3348/405

COLOMBIA

LEHDER'S LATIN MOVEMENT BEGINS 1986 CAMPAIGN

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by Alberto Giraldo]

[Text] This incredible story is true.

Political leaders in Quindio are alarmed by the growing voter support for the Latin Movement.

This is the same movement that drug trafficker Carlos Lehder founded 2 years ago with his huge fortune.

Lehder garnered 14,000 votes at the harvest election last year, but is expected to get more than 20,000 at the next balloting.

In other words, based on Quindio's proportional representation, that many votes are enough to elect one senator and one representative.

Latin Movement has already begun its 1986 campaign.

Its leader is a young professional by the name of Luis Fernando Ramirez, who belongs to one of the oldest families in Armenia.

The lad will be running for senator.

And there are three regional leaders running for the representative's seat.

Lehder is known to have sent 13 million pesos from the underground to set up the campaign headquarters and to defray initial campaign expenses.

Arriving with the money were several cassettes on which Lehder's voice can be heard.

The campaign that Lehder ran in 1982 is still fresh in the minds of Quindio residents.

He spent a great deal of money to attract voters.

For example, he gave Tebaida an ambulance.

He presented another town with a fire truck.

So lavish were Lehder and his group with their money that on weekends they bought 2,000 to 3,000 chickens to be handed out at rallies.

Lehder would arrive in a town followed by a flattruck carrying a huge oven for roasting the chickens, which were then generously handed out to the people.

This is how he got the 14,000 votes that won him two deputies and two councilmen in almost all of the department's municipalities.

Lehder is now trying for a repeat while in the underground.

Liberal leaders are afraid of losing one of three senators they usually have gotten.

What is worse, contrary to all normal expectations, the interview that Lehder gave on television made a major impact on Quindio voters.

8743

CSO: 3348/405

JPRS-LAM-85-027
26 March 1985

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

NEW MAGDALENA SECURITY CHIEF--Santa Marta--Carlos Enrique Urzola Gonzalez has replaced retired Col Alvaro Zanabria as chief of the Administrative Department of Security in Magdalena. Alvaro Zanabria has been transferred to the Atlantico regional office. [Text]
[Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Feb 85 p 3-A] 8743

ARMY ENGINEER HEAD NAMED--Lt Col Ricardo Emilio Cifuentes Ordonez was named commander of the Antonio Baraya No. 1 Engineers Battalion, replacing Col Nilson Ruiz Tello. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Feb 85 p 7-A]
8926

CSO: 3348/404

JPRS-LAM-85-027
26 March 1985

CUBA

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

[Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Service and Television Service in Spanish on various dates between 7 February and 27 February 1985 reported the following ambassadorial changes:

Ana Maria Gonzalez Suarez, ambassador to the Philippines, has been designated ambassador to Thailand, Vanautu, and Malaysia.

Laureano Cardoso Toledo, ambassador to Sierra Leone, will also serve as ambassador to Liberia.

Manuel Torres Muniz, ambassador to Mozambique, has been appointed ambassador to Lesotho.

Julio Imperatori Grave de Peralta, ambassador to Kuwait, will also be serving as ambassador to the Yemen Arab Republic. Luis Delgado Perez, ambassador to Zaire, was appointed ambassador to Cameroon.

Nicolas Rodriguez Astiazarain has been designated ambassador to Ghana.

CSO: 3248/274

CUBA

REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION OF 4-REACTOR NUCLEAR STATION

Sofia STROITEL in Bulgarian 13 Feb 85 p 8

[Article by Boris Metodiev: "A Leader in Cuban Atomic Power"]

[Text] In Spanish "cienfuegos" means 100 fires. This major industrial center in the Caribbean Sea has often been called, with justification, the Pearl of the South. In the gloomy years of Batista's dictatorship, a revolt of military sailors, who were inspired by Fidel Castro's movement, broke out here on 5 September 1957. The military fleet was truly an arsenal for the fighters in the Escalbran Mountains. A modest memorial marks the death of 25 young Cuban sailors, who perished when their uprising was crushed by many thousands of troops.

Cuban comrades told me that Georgi Dimitrov's works about the united front and about youth were the first Marxist primer for the young revolutionaries in the provinces.

But the new glory of Cienfuegos is the development of chemistry, machine building, the cement industry, and power supply.

The first nuclear power plant in Cuba has been under construction for 2 years, right at the seacoast, 28 kilometers from the city. It will have four reactors, each with a capacity of 440 megawatts. The design and the equipment are unique: protected from the sea's waves, from earthquakes, in conformance with environmental specifics and tropical elements.

Current from the peaceful atom will flow from there at the end of 1987. Electrical power for the Isle of Freedom will be doubled.

Recently I met with a member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, Carlos Julio Trujillo, the general director of the first atomic power plant in fraternal Cuba. This seasoned revolutionary has been working in construction for more than 36 years. He built the beautiful Havana Libre Hotel in the capital. After the revolutionary victory he guided the construction of major socialist sites. This experienced specialist shared the information that 6,500 workers are participating at the plant site.

Special technical high schools, professional academies, and a higher institute for training cadres for the power plant have already been opened at Cienfuegos. Executive and management cadres will be trained at courses and will have practical experience in Soviet nuclear power plants. More than 450 Soviet specialists are already helping their Cuban comrades and colleagues.

Comrade Carlos Trujillo spoke with exceptional recognition and respect about the work of the Bulgarian construction brigade named for Fidel Castro. The young Bulgarian builders, with their discipline, diligence, and organization, fulfill their international duty in a worthy manner; they strengthen their ties of friendship and amity with the Cuban people.

In his speech to the 15th Congress of Cuban Trade Unions a year ago, Fidel Castro said that if the Bulgarian builders were to come to Cienfuegos, the atomic power plant would have a victorious 1st of January (the Cuban revolution was victorious on this date in 1959).

Our builders are working on the 1st and 2nd reactors, and they often fulfill their labor norms at a rate of 300 percent. All the builders are busy with the 2nd reactor, since the word was passed along to finish the casing, fitting, pouring concrete, and puttying, and then give the site over to installing the Soviet equipment.

One group of our young men has already handed over a block of 92 apartments to the Soviet specialists. And before the end of this month another apartment block will be turned over. Another group is building concrete roads and squares. All the painting work at the plant and the domestic construction have been entrusted to the Bulgarians, who have taught 82 young Cuban builders and have named the new brigade for Camilo Cienfuegos. Now they are teaching a new brigade, which will bear the name of Ernesto Che Guevara. An agreement has been signed with a Cuban construction brigade from Havana which is named after the general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, with a brigade of internationalist Cuban builders who had worked in Grenada, and with the Cuban brigade, called Cuban-Bulgarian Friendship, which is working at the Kozloduy Atomic Power Complex [in Bulgaria]. The relationships with the Cuban comrades are marvelous. Fifteen leading Bulgarians were on the rostrum at Revolution Square to see the 1st of May demonstrations. Twenty-three of our builders were honored with the Armando Maestre order (named for a Cuban construction worker who died in the revolutionary struggle). The brigade's leader, hero of socialist labor Aleksandur Peshev, was given the golden order of labor from the Republic of Cuba.

The Cuban people's respect and concern for Bulgarians is extraordinary. According to a revolution of the Cuban Government, our workers and their families here receive food free. Nurseries and kindergartens are free. They have been placed in sunny, comfortable apartments.

Excursions are organized to Havana, Varadero, Playa Jiron, and the Escambray Mountains.

Recently Cuban television completed a 1-hour film about the Bulgarian brigade. The diligence of Khristo Lukanov, Lyubomir Miranov, Iliya Punev, Todor Dimitrov, Emil Gruev, and others was especially stressed. The Cuban leaders at the site, Pedro Sanchez, Jorge Amado, Lazaro, and others, spoke very affectionately about them.

On the shore of the warm Caribbean Sea, at the foundations of the first Cuban nuclear power station, the labor of the young Bulgarian patriots is building a memorial of love from our nation to the unswerving creators and fighters of sunny, fraternal Cuba. Socialist internationalism is passing through the hemispheres in the name of indestructable friendship and solidarity between our nations.

12334

CSO: 5100/3010

CUBA

BRIEFS

HIGH ENERGY USE FINES--More than 400,000 pesos in fines have been levied against six enterprises in Camaguey Province for excessive consumption of energy in their work. In accordance with methodology instruction No 191 of the State Committee for Prices [CEP], the provincial delegation in Camaguey has inspected the organizations using the greatest amount of energy beyond planned consumption rates. The rates being monitored are for diesel fuel, petroleum and gasoline. [Excerpt] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 85 FL]

CSO: 3248/273

GUYANA

PPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS, REVIEWS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The Central Committee of the People's Progressive Party (CCPPP) held its first meeting for 1985 during January 19-20 at the Freedom House headquarters.

General Secretary Dr Cheddi Jagan presented a comprehensive review of the international and national situation, concluding that favourable conditions are developing for deepening anti-imperialism and sharpening the class struggle.

The CC/PPP lauded the wise conduct of Soviet foreign policy which is primarily responsible for renewed hopes for a return to the era of detente. The Party is convinced that new vistas will be opened to the forces of national and social liberation with a relaxation of international tensions. Democratic openings have already appeared in some Latin American countries, and the cracks on the icy hold of fascist dictatorships in other states are widening daily. The appearance of the Contadora Group portends timely assurances to our peoples against external interferences and for freedom and democracy.

The Central Committee endorsed as positive and productive, a report on the results of a visit by a PPP delegation to Cuba on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba for party to party talks.

The CC/PPP made a lengthy and penetrating analysis of the grim and agonising economic and financial paralysis gripping Guyana due to the incompetence and mismanagement of the PNC regime. It noted that the 1985 State Budget once again increases the burden on the Guyanese people, taking into account that PNC government policies will not lead to increased revenue from production but to a greater parasitic dependence on higher taxation and other forms of tribute. The processes of virtual surrender to the IMF also spell greater disaster for the nation.

The Central Committee vehemently condemned the provocative and massive hike in salaries of the state elite, denouncing it as being both shameful and immoral in the face of the contemptuous rejection of the TUC's demands for a living wage for the hard-pressed working people. This party called on the government to immediately remove all increases for the Parliamentary, the Ministerial and Presidential bureaucracies.

It further opposed the continuing refusal of the PNC regime to make food and other essentials easily and cheaply available to the working people, and urged a system of fair distribution of the meagre supplies of basic commodities, and the proper functioning of vital services, including transportation and water.

The PPP Central Committee called upon the labour movement and the Guyanese people to intensify the class struggle, and to situate the wages issue and the fight for free and fair elections within the search for a political solution to end undemocratic and minority rule through the establishment of a broadbased National Patriotic Front Government.

The Party reemphasised the urgent necessity for such a solution in order to halt the slide into bankruptcy and to save the nation. The PPP is prepared to go its part on this road, and has placed on its agenda the formulation of a democratic structure for this solution which must be based on the pillars of democracy, antiimperialism and socialist-orientation.

CSO: 3298/413

GUYANA

PARTY ORGAN REPLIES TO CHARGE OF RACISM IN APPOINTMENTS

Response to MIRROR

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 13 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] For 20 years the People's National Congress government has been seeking to promote peace and racial harmony especially after the troublous period of the early 1960s. The government even pledged to deal severely with anyone who sought to plunge the country into turmoil.

In 1964 when the PNC acceded to the seat of Government, Guyana had just come out of a period of riots and wanton destruction of property. One of the first pledges of the PNC government was that the people of Guyana enjoy living in peace.

This pledge is being kept. In fact, Guyanese are doing more than living in peace. They are working together for the common good of the country.

Being a Party committed to the Socialist cause, the People's National Congress adheres to the tenet; from each according to his ability, to each according to his work. There is to be no racial consideration.

Promotions and assignments are not based on racial considerations, as some would have us believe. It is surprising that the People's Progressive Party, the party that claims to be giving critical support to the government, is once more introducing the aspect of race as part of its opposition campaign. It was the PPP that sought to use the racial issue as a means of winning elections. The PNC had to correct the ills that followed.

In a recent issue of MIRROR, the PPP is contending that there may be racial considerations in the appointment of a successor to Police Commissioner, Cde Lloyd Barker.

The evidence is clear to all who may see. Under the PNC Government, promotion and appointments are awarded on merit rather than by any racial consideration.

PNC Leadership

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 13 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Racism Must Never Rear Its Ugly Head in Socialist Guyana"]

[Text] After 20 years of racial harmony in Guyana there are some who now want to reintroduce the ugly spectacle of racism in this country.

Racism was a fact of life in colonial Guyana because the colonial rulers found that the best method of governing the country was by a policy of divide and rule.

Of course, the colonial masters had perfected this art over the centuries. They had practised the art in India, Africa and in all those territories over which they had control. And for them it was wise to ensure that the population was divided so that they could better effect their control.

With a divided population the people would be too busy quarrelling among themselves to worry about the state of affairs as it relates to their daily lives.

Just prior to the accession of the People's National Congress to the seat of government Guyana was torn by racial strife which some feel was initiated by outside forces.

Under its administration the PNC brought the people of this nation together and the leadership has pledged to ensure that this situation remains.

It is important to note that a divided nation can never prosper. Division is an invitation to disaster in the form of outside intervention as was the case of Grenada just over a year ago. Chad and Lebanon are divided countries that have attracted forces from outside their borders. Guyana must not be like these.

The People's National Congress is aware of the dangers of a divided nation and it is not surprising that Comrade Leader has pledged to deal condignly with anyone or any group that threatens to divide it.

Not so long ago a group of Guyanese residing in Canada hatched up a plot to kill some of the leaders in the Guyanese society for the purpose of introducing a new government. And only last week, rumours to the effect that there had been a coup attempt in Guyana were rife in North America.

When Central Executive Committee member and Prime Minister, Cde Desmond Hoyte, addressed the four-day annual conference of the Police Association in Linden he said that the rumours of a coup in Guyana are part of a pattern of events that create a need for vigilance by Guyanese. The inference is that there is movement afoot to create disturbance in this country.

There is no way, in a divided nation, that our Prime Minister could have issued such a call.

However, the call by Cde Hoyte must be heeded. One Trinidad newspaper sought to create dissent by reporting that a minority (of Blacks) were ruling a majority (of East Indians). This was duly reproduced by the CATHOLIC STANDARD.

There have been, and there will be many more attempts to foment racism and the people must be vigilant.

We must not fall prey to the rumour-mongers and divisionists who continue to peddle the myth that reward is based on racial considerations rather than on performance, experience and suitability.

Further, we should ask ourselves whether the nation can afford division at this time when the forces of imperialism are awaiting an opportunity to crush our revolution.

The People's National Congress, under the leadership of party leader, Cde L.F.S. Burnham, has always fought racism whenever it sought to raise its ugly head. It will continue to do so in the future.

The party is firmly committed to the unity of the Guyanese working class, and working people as it is dedicated to the building of socialism in Guyana.

CSO: 3298/413

GUYANA

PNC AWAIT'S PPP REPLY TO OFFER OF JOINT NEGOTIATIONS

Jagan Statement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party intends to hold consultations with its membership and will respond, in due course, to the invitation from the People's National Congress (PNC) for constructive dialogue.

This was disclosed yesterday by PPP Leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan in a press statement. He said the PPP will also carry out "the broadest possible consultations" with what he referred to as "other progressive political and social forces, including trade union, business, professional religious and other bodies."

Rumor of Government Post for Jagan

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 27 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Local observers are sceptical of a report emanating from London that "Dr Cheddi Jagan is expected to be named to a senior political position in Government within the next three months."

The report appears in the January issue of the London-based CARIBBEAN INSIGHT, which suggests that the position Dr Jagan will be offered by the Government is first vice president.

The local observers suspect that the story was floated in London by a section of the PNC for foreign consumption with a view to influencing the Western powers into aiding the PNC regime, now in desperate financial straits.

The message being conveyed to the US and IMF in particular is, "Either you help us or we definitely link up with the PPP and the Eastern Bloc."

INSIGHT, on the other hand, claims that Dr Jagan visited Cuba in December for further discussions on a possible rapprochement between the PPP and PNC.

"It is these renewed discussions that are to lead to Cheddi Jagan and possibly other senior PPP officials being offered ministerial positions by the PNC," the paper states.

The Cuban Communist Party, INSIGHT adds, places great importance on this rapprochement.

As evidence of this, the paper asserts that on his visit to Cuba Dr Jagan was met by Fidel Castro himself in Havana, as well as leading members of the Cuban Communist Party's international and foreign relations departments and its politburo.

INSIGHT declares that the discussions followed a slowing down in the impetus of PNC/PPP talks after the PNC's loss of control of the TUC, and after a four-day visit to Guyana in November by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, in part to try to foster a government of national unity between the two parties.

Local informed opinion holds that any sharing of power by the PNC with the PPP will result in rifts in the PNC and endanger its leader's position.

Cheddi Jagan is said to be resisting strong pressure from leading members of his party backed by the Cubans, to form a closer arrangement with the ruling party.

He is said to fear that the results of any such arrangement would spell disaster to his political career.

Approached by the CATHOLIC STANDARD, Dr Jagan was unavailable for comment on the INSIGHT article.

CSO: 3298/409

GUYANA

PNC, PPP PEACE ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATE, FOCUS ON NICARAGUA

Chandisingh's Visit

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 20 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Adam Harris]

[Excerpt] "Both Guyana and Nicaragua are confronting the same enemy-- imperialism--and there is great need now, more than ever, for unity among the progressive forces of the region," General Secretary of the People's National Congress, Cde Ranji Chandisingh, said during a discussion with Commander of the Nicaraguan Revolution, Bayardo Arce Castano.

Cde Chandisingh, who was at the time heading the Guyana delegation to the inauguration of Nicaragua's President, Daniel Ortega, reemphasised the unflinching support of the PNC for the Nicaraguan revolution.

The PNC appreciates the willingness of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN) to endorse the proposals by the Contadora group, without any modification, he said.

This is a clear indication of the commitment by the Sandinistas to pursue an amicable settlement of the current crisis in Central America, he added.

And speaking at a press conference with journalists from Barracada, the organ of the ruling party, and from the national newspaper EL NEUVO DIARIO, Cde Chandisingh described the inauguration of Daniel Ortega as a positive move to consolidate the Nicaraguan revolution and as a development of the democratic process.

He spoke of the dangers to peace in the region, and added that Guyana is disturbed over the situation in the Caribbean and Central America.

When the Guyana delegation arrived at the Sandino Airport, Nicaragua, it was met by President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Mariano Fallo; Minister of Finance, Joaquin Cuadro; Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nora Astorga; Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations of the FSLN, Jose Pasos; Nicaragua's accredited ambassador to Guyana, Javier Chamorro; Head of the Caribbean Desk of the FSLN, Bolivar Diaz; and Desk Officer in the Caribbean Secretariat, Hugo Meneses. Included in the Guyana delegation to Nicaragua was Deputy Head in the Department of National Orientation and International Relations, Cde Colin Heywood.

Chandisingh Remarks

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 85 p 6

[Article by Dhanraj Bhagwandin]

[Excerpt] GNA--Relations between Guyana and Nicaragua are expected to be further consolidated as a result of discussions between Vice President Ranji Chandisingh and Political Coordinator of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), Bayardo Arce Castano.

Cde Chandisingh who recently returned from Nicaragua described his visit to that Latin American nation as very useful.

"It provided an opportunity to assess the situation and the support of the FSLN," he told the GUYANA NEWS AGENCY in an interview.

While in Nicaragua to witness the inauguration ceremony of President-elect Daniel Orega, the vice president also met with Cuban President Fidel Castro and the Yugoslavian President, among other heads of governments.

Cde Chandisingh, who is also general secretary of the PNC, represented President Forbes Burnham at the occasion. He was accompanied by deputy head of the Department of National Orientation and International Relations of the PNC, Colin Heywood.

During his discussions with Latin American officials, Chandisingh expressed Guyana's support for the Contadora process in bringing about a peaceful settlement to the problems of the region.

According to the Vice President, the grave danger of the situation in Central America and the Caribbean has been recognised, as well as the need for a speedy settlement.

He referred to the damage and destruction being done by the counterrevolutionaries which result in valuable human and natural resources being diverted to defence.

Such resources, he said, could have been beneficially utilised in the development process of Nicaragua.

And in a comment on the results of last November's elections in Nicaragua which attracted widespread attention, Chandisingh observed that it promoted internal solidarity and also reflected the strong support of Nicaraguans for the Sandinistas.

The election has institutionalised democratic pluralism in Nicaragua, the Vice-President added, for it witnessed the participation of seven political parties of different ideological perspectives.

New GCSP Branch

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] East Berbice: (GNA)--A regional branch of the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) was Saturday launched in East Berbice.

The branch, established in a ceremony at the Albion Sports Complex, is headed by veteran politician-trade unionist, Ajodha Singh with the Regional Chairman as patron.

Vice-chairman of the broad-based organisation is Cde Collin Waldron, Secretary is member of parliament, Isaac Chowritmootoo with Annie Gravesande, assistant secretary; and treasurer, Cde Annie Saywack. There are 17 members drawn from various organisations in the executive committee.

The GCSP is committed to pledge solidarity with and support for all peace initiatives and peace movements seeking to develop and promote their own path of independent development.

The GCSP will today launch a week of activities in observance of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua.

Joint Statement on Nicaragua

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Jan 85 pp 2-3

[Text] The following is a joint statement issued by the GPC and the GCSP in defence of the heroic Nicaraguan Revolution:

On Monday, January 23, 1985 the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) and the Guyana Peace Council (GPC) will be sponsoring a joint Solidarity activity with the people and government of Nicaragua against imperialist intervention. This activity will be held at Bishops' High School and will commence at 1800 hours.

This joint activity which constitutes part of the on-going solidarity exercises with the Sandinista Revolution is being held at a time when new pressures are being exerted on the Nicaraguan Government while efforts are being made to block the process of a peaceful settlement in Central America.

The main objective of these hostile acts on the part of imperialism is to crush the valiant example that Sandino's homeland offers to the peoples of the underdeveloped world and especially to those in Central America and the Caribbean.

Time and again undisputed evidence has been brought to light exposing imperialist interference in Nicaragua. Moreover, in complicity with the oligarchical regimes in the region, imperialism has not only supported counterrevolutionary bands, but is allowing American citizens to participate directly in aggressive actions against Nicaragua and the revolutionary forces of the area.

Combined with the U.S. Administration's ambivalent attitude towards a negotiated political settlement to the critical situation in Central America, these activities have raised tensions in the area to an unprecedented level. This could easily turn into a regional conflict which could have serious implications for world peace.

In the midst of all this, the besieged Nicaraguan people, who fought to end the Somoza dynasty, have reiterated their determination to defend their revolution alongside their unquestioned vanguard: the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The GPC and the GCSP reiterate their complete solidarity with the People and Government of Nicaragua. We are convinced that the just struggles being carried out by Sandino's people in legitimate defense of their national sovereignty will ultimately win out! We call on the Guyanese people to demonstrate their solidarity with this just cause by turning out in large numbers to the public activity mentioned above.

Together with Nicaragua against imperialist intervention!

Joint Peace Rally

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 85 p 8

[Article by George Barclay]

[Text]

A joint Solidarity Rally, sponsored by the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP), and the Guyana Peace Council (GPC), on Monday night adopted a resolution supporting the "just cause of the Nicaraguan people in defence of their sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The GCSP is affiliated to the People's National Congress while the GPC is supportive of the People's Progressive Party. The resolution, which was moved by Cde Janice Hall, Executive Secretary of the GCSP also called on all hemispheric and extra hemispheric forces to observe the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. People of

different political persuasions attended the 'Solidarity Rally' at the Bishops' High School, which was held in support of the people and Government of Nicaragua.

In commending the resolution to the rally, Cde Hall said that they were deeply concerned over the current escalation of tension in Central America and the direct threat "this poses to the maintenance of peace and security in the region."

The hundreds who attended the rally unanimously accepted the resolution, expressing their "firm and unflinching support for the struggle of the gallant people of revolutionary Nicaragua, who, led by their President, Daniel Ortega under the Sandinista banner are carrying out the noble task of democratising the Nicaraguan society."

The resolution called for an immediate and unconditional cessation of all acts of hostility aimed at undermining the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the people of Nicaragua and their inalienable right of self-determination.

It also called for the resumption of the Manzanillo talks aimed at reducing the existing tension between Nicaragua and the United States.

The evening's programme was intermingled with cultural items and musical renditions by the Guyana Police Force Band.

The rally was chaired by Cde Clarence Drayton, Vice-President of the GPC and the closing remarks were made by Cde Colin Haywood, an executive member of the G.C.S.P.

GUYANA

JOINT COMPANY WITH CHINA WILL EXPLOIT FISHING GROUNDS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Vanessa Cort]

[Text]

A Chinese team is expected in the country shortly to set up a company which will exploit Guyana's fishing and shrimping grounds to the mutual benefit of both countries.

Chairman of the Guyana Fisheries Limited, Cde Robert Williams, made the announcement Tuesday during the Budget debate in the National Assembly.

In the course of a forceful delivery, which drew applause, the GFL Chairman gave several examples of friendly co-operation being fostered by Government.

He said that the establishment of the company with the Chinese was part of an on-going agreement with that country which so far had provided some \$8m (US) for investment.

This sum facilitated the exploitation of Guyana's fishing potential by the GFL and a Chinese company, and

would this year enable the purchase of additional fishing and shrimping trawlers and other ancillary equipment.

Cde Williams contended that foreign countries would not enter into such agreements with Guyana were they not satisfied with this country's political stance and development strides.

This was a direct rebuttal of statements made by previous speaker, United Force Leader, Marcellus Feilden-Singh, that Guyana was bankrupt and the budget "full of verbiage", devoid of content and replete with distortions.

Cde Williams pointed to co-operation with Japan over the past four years, yielding a three-phase grant aid programme to Guyana and equipment which included four refrigerated trucks and two 15-ton ice plants.

He added that just one week ago Government was informed that Japan will add another phase to the programme before the end of the year.

The Fisheries Chairman argued that co-operation was sought with any friendly country, irrespective of ideology. He used the example of discussions with Canada, which are being pursued through the Canadian Industrial Development Agency (CIDA). Talks have already led to the Canadians offering Guyana a line-of-credit for materials, which were allocated to selected Fishermen's Co-operatives.

Further he declared that, contrary to Opposition claims, facilities were being established throughout the country, naming a 50-ton storage facility in No.66 Village in Region 6 and a five-ton ice-making facility in Region 5 as just two examples.

These developments within the country's fishing industry, the GFL Chairman said, were an example of the commitment and dedication of local fishermen, fully supported by the Government and people of Guyana.

GUYANA

PNC ORGAN SAYS NEW TRADING PARTNERS ARE NEEDED

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "For Our Survival We Need To Identify With New Friends, Partners"]

[Text] When Leader of the People's National Congress, Cde Forbes Burnham, told the nation that it was better for people to die on their feet like men rather than to crawl on their bellies, he was identifying a course of action for the nation.

At the time he made that statement, some international lending agencies were making harsh demands of this youthful developing nation. In fact, some governments were seeking to pressure Guyana into turning away from its Socialist course.

Guyana persisted with its Socialist course of development, in spite of numerous destabilising efforts, criticisms from some of its neighbours, and innumerable slanderous attacks.

Our dedication has been rewarded. The nation experienced its first positive growth since 1980. But as Cde. Carl Greenidge, Guyana's Finance Minister, said during his budget presentation last week that this welcome turn of events should not blind us to the need to address persistent financial imbalances.

There is still urgent need for us "to rapidly and significantly increase the economy's export earnings." There is also need to increase the volume of our traditional exports.

Guyana spent some \$1.3 billion on imports while it earned \$0.9 billion from its exports resulting in a deficit of \$434 million. But, as the budget speech revealed, this deficit represented an improvement on the 1983 performance.

Acting on the words of our Comrade Leader, we made further sacrifices during the past years. We went without some of those luxuries we do not produce but to which we had grown accustomed because of our colonial past. Our sacrifices, which

have since been vindicated, led to cries of 'starvation' by those who have since been identified, as agents of destabilisation.

These agents of destabilisation, as is customary of those who profess to be economists because they can juggle some figures, sought to compare the situation in Guyana with that in the other countries. They claimed we were a little better off than Haiti.

Today, the situation in those countries has deteriorated further while ours is on the improve. But our days of sacrifice are not yet over.. We must still continue to be conservative in our spending, while we seek to introduce mechanisms to ensure further growth and development.

It is now common knowledge that Guyana and Cuba have identified more than 100 development projects in nearly 20 areas following last week's meeting of the Guyana/ Cuba Joint Commission.

The Government, led by the PNC, recognised that the solution to our current problem lies in aligning our needs with those of friendly nations and in seeking to establish beneficial trade relations with them.

In addition to Cuba, we have established similar relations with Brazil, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, Romania and Bulgaria.

These relationships will be characterised by an inflow of equipment, technology, inputs for production and other like areas, a far cry from our traditional relationships.

With the People's National Congress at the helm, we have laid the foundation for genuine development. It is now for us to maintain the dynamism that grew out of our desire to die on our feet like men rather than crawl on our bellies.

GUYANA

INDIAN ENVOY COMMENTS ON STATUS OF RELATIONS, TRADE

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 27 Jan 85 p 5

[Article by Kamini Persaud]

[Text]

TRADE between Guyana and India has been at "a low ebb" recently, but this situation can change as markets exist in India for this country's calcined bauxite and timber.

This is the view of India's High Commissioner to Guyana, Gajanan Wakankar. He was commenting on Indo-Guyana relations and developments in his country, in an interview with the Guyana News Agency, on the eve of India's 35th Republic anniversary celebrated yesterday.

Cde Wakankar said Guyana and India enjoy "extremely cordial" relations at the bilateral level, were both members of the Commonwealth of Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement, and shared similar views on vital international issues such as the urgent need for a New International Economic Order.

But he contended that there is still much scope for the strengthening of relations between the two countries. He identified trade as one area in which there could be some improvement.

The Indian diplomat said Guyana's high-quality calcined bauxite is sure to find markets in India, where there are over 40 refractories. In addition, he noted that India, which was self-sufficient in timber some 20 years ago, recently began importing this commodity. He

suggested that these markets be explored by the relevant local agencies.

Cde Wakankar also spoke of the proposed Guyana-India Joint Commission, the need for more cultural exchanges between Guyana and India, and his desire to see greater co-operation between the two countries in science and technology.

He noted that while the Guyana-India Joint Commission had as yet not got off the ground, the two governments have been co-operating at the bilateral level in some vital areas.

The Joint Commission should have met for the first time some years ago.

Cde Wakankar described the Joint Commission's failure to meet as "unfortunate", but said he was hopeful that the factors preventing the Joint Commission from meeting will eventually be removed.

India has, over the years, provided technical assistance to Guyana in several areas, including the cultivation of pulses such as mung and urid. And last year, for example, experts from the Indian National Industrial Development Corporation carried out a feasibility study on the establishment of a paper recycling plant in Guyana.

This year, Indian experts are likely to come to Guyana to advise on seed, cashew nut and jute cultivation, Cde Wakankar said. The Indian

Government has also increased, from four to six this year, the number of scholarships offered to Guyanese to study medicine and engineering at universities in India. The number of scholarships in other fields is also likely to be increased.

Over the last 35 years, India has made great strides in the fields of sciences and technology. Developments in these fields have led to the launching of Indian satellites, the production of indigenous agricultural machinery, a wide range of chemicals, drugs and pesticides as well as an increase in life expectancy, among other things.

Major achievements in the agriculture sector have also been realised. Over a 30-year period, production of food grains moved from 50 million tonnes to 135 million tonnes. The country previously a net importer of

grains now exports some food grains. Near self-sufficiency has been achieved in all major food grains.

And, since 1950, the industrial scene has witnessed significant increases in the production of steel, aluminium, crude oil and coal. The diversity of India's industrial base has also grown, with products now ranging from a knitting needle to a nuclear power plant.

Cde Wakankar has said there is room for further co-operation between Guyana and India. He noted: "indications are that relations between our two countries will be stronger this year."

The Indian High Commission in Guyana celebrated the anniversary with a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Indian Cultural Centre in Queenstown yesterday and a cultural presentation of Indian music and dance will be put on at the National Cultural Centre on Saturday, February 2. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/411

GUYANA

BUDGET EXPLAINED, DRAWS CRITICISM OF OPPOSITION FORCES

CHRONICLE Assessment

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[From the "Page One Comment" column: "Budget for the Masses"]

[Text] For two-and-a-half hours Finance Minister Carl Greenidge last Friday outlined the Guyana Government's budgetary plans for 1985 (and beyond) and traced the performance of the national economy in 1984.

It was a detailed and scholarly presentation, a careful perusal of which must be tremendously educative about the realities, the difficulties, and the prospects of the Guyanese society.

It was certainly one of the most comprehensive budget statements made in the National Assembly of this fledgling republic. It was also a reflection of our emerging national maturity--a recurring theme of the budget speech.

We wish to congratulate the Finance Minister--himself a technician of high calibre--and his team for taking the "tutored, politically and economically sensitised populace" into their confidence and telling them the story about the state of the nation's financial health, as it is, in today's world as it is.

We are heartened by the news that 1984 witnessed a two percent growth in the nation's Gross Domestic Product--the first year of real or positive growth since 1980.

Though small, this growth suggests that by our skillfully managed efforts, informed by a growing understanding of the crucial imperatives of development, we have done much better than many in these turbulent days of the 80s.

It might be difficult for many of us to readily discern the tell-tale signs of growth along the way, caught up as we are, in our sometimes desperate efforts to cut and contrive, and make two ends meet.

But even as we indulge in a bit of vanity, let us not become complacent. We have only just begun to lay the foundation for socioeconomic transformation

and many more a difficult decision will have to be made as we seek to grapple with what the Finance Minister sees as the main issue at hand--ensuring that we live within our means--in today's unconscionable world.

What has appeared at the end of the long, dark tunnel is but a glimmer, not yet a glow.

The challenges ahead--IMF and all that--are as many as they are real and we will need to protect our Achilles Heel as we pursue national development priorities which include, as Cde. Greenidge explained, "a politically wearable level of welfare provision."

We might be far from gleeful at the news that subsidies--"ineffectual subsidies"--will be removed. But confronted by the circumstances which have been prevailing for some time and which permit the operators on the parallel market to milk fortunes from the rest of the populace, this seems a wise, necessary and a long overdue policy.

We look forward to the introduction of legislation which will exempt taxation from incomes which accrue to producers who produce for their own consumption and for occasional sale on the market as indeed, we also look forward to our planners achieving the "knife-edge balance between expenditures and revenues which needs to be achieved by appropriate financial policy."

We look forward also to our winning the battle against the still "bloated, ineffectual, centralised bureaucracy." But even as we do so, and hope that the restructuring of the Guystac Group redounds to the benefit of the nation, we are disappointed that workers in the public information sector must remain in limbo (at least until sometime later this year) pending the restructuring of their sector.

We look forward to the main pillars of the national economy being reinforced and we feel reassured that Government will ensure that the arrangements for technical and other support services for the bauxite industry will in no way limit national ownership and control of that industry.

We believe that the 1985 budget is truly a budget for the masses and we note that the brunt of the new taxes will have to be borne by many of those whose lifestyle indicate they could afford to pay. We believe however, that having now addressed the problem of earning revenue from television, government now needs to have a more careful look at its policy as it relates to television for Guyana.

Labouring as we are, "under the burden of the debt trap," the model for debt servicing "which contains a development thrust component" and being developed with some Caricom states seem a novel experiment in South-South cooperation. Its success could redound only to the mutual benefit of the parties involved.

All is evidently not well in the banking sector and we have always felt it somewhat anachronistic that in these, the enlightened days of the 80s some foreign banks operating in Guyana bring little or no foreign capital into the

country, recycle and invest the savings of Guyanese, earn sizeable profits then repatriate part of their profits utilising foreign exchange in the process.

Proposals for introducing legislation requiring existing and new foreign banks to bring in capital to back their operations in Guyana, are thus warmly welcomed.

We also warmly welcome the proposed measures intended to ensure that all employers contribute six percent of each employee's wages to the employee's Personal Retirement Account. This is truly a progressive pro-worker measure.

In his budget presentation Cde Greenidge detailed the nation's development and welfare priorities. With these, we find no fault and we endorse his view that "our financial policy must be geared to ensuring that we live within our means (for) to do otherwise, would be to seek to live within other people's means."

We are confident that with the astute, purposeful, exemplary and motivated leadership we have become accustomed to over the years, as a nation we will live within our means and see the glimmer at the end of the tunnel flicker and glow.

Greenidge on Need for Priorities

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

MINISTER of Finance, Cde Carl Greenidge, has emphasised the need for Government to carefully choose the mix of capital projects that best serve the national development and national welfare priorities for implementation.

He noted: "There exists a tendency to undertake all projects which appear to hold out the possibility of being beneficial." But, he identified the availability of domestic and foreign resources, in-

cluding skills, as being among the constraints to success in this approach.

Making his budget presentation to the National Assembly on January 18, he said, "this quality and quantity constraint commands the utilisation of a decision-making system for choosing projects. Only through the application of such a system can we attempt to ensure that the public sector deficit, to which I have repeatedly alluded, is brought and held, within manageable bounds."

He said that firstly there must be identified, the projects which are "critical"

(projects whose non-implementation will give rise to intolerable results) for preferential treatment on the use of available, domestically generated resources.

"Some Sea Defence works and sewerage projects fall in this category." With the national development priorities, the national welfare priorities, and the nation's financial liquidity in mind, he named ten criteria which must be applied to all other projects.

The criteria are that the projects will contribute to increased utilisation of existing productive capacity; will contribute to import replacement; will contribute to increased exports; will require the national economy to provide the minimum of foreign exchange; will contribute to the maintenance of existing assets; will lead to the breaking of important bottlenecks to production; is in an advanced stage of execution; will require a relatively low overall level of

expenditure; will provide critical linkages with other productive activities; is eminently related to national development priorities, will provide a high return on investment, or will provide a quick return during the year in a net cash flow sense."

The constraint involving availability of domestic resources and the 10 criteria "will ensure a proper response to what I have characterised as the Nation's Immediate Key Task. The net result of all this is that some ongoing projects will have to be abandoned, attenuated, or re-phased," the Minister told the National Assembly in outlining proposed financial policy.

Earlier in his address, the Finance Minister said "the Nation's Immediate Key Task is to progressively reduce the overall Public Sector deficit while pursuing the National Development Priorities which include a politically wearable level of welfare provision."

Objectionable Features

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 27 Jan 85 pp 1,2,3

[Excerpt] THE RECENT BUDGET shows more clearly than ever that a solution to the country's problems will only come about after the establishment of a freely and fairly elected government.

At this moment of crisis it is only a government with no regard for public opinion, undisguised contempt for Parliament and the population at large which can produce a document of so many words with so little content.

SEVEN FEATURES OF THE BUDGET

*First, as in the past years there is a hidden budget and the one submitted to Parliament on budget day.

The hidden budget comes out in a series of under-publicised orders just before and after the budget is presented to Parliament.

In this, consumption taxes are increased by huge amounts, licences and fees are increased by more than half, the price of basics are raised substantially

(transport, sugar, foreign exchange); and the cabinet doubles, and in some cases more than doubles, the salaries and perks it pays itself, while offering a measly 10% increase in the minimum wage.

*Cover-up is the second feature. Imagine trying to paint 1984 as a good year!-

The budget boasts of a 2% increase in GDP, without referring to the 10% decrease in 1983. Nor the fact that today real income per person, and the real wage are lower than in 1970, and one-third below that of 1975.

It claims that there is light in the tunnel of darkness and manages to discuss the sugar industry without referring to the fact that last year's output, at 256,481 metric tons, was one of the lowest in thirty years! Putting one's head in the sand does not make problems go away.

*The third feature of the budget is its insensitivity to the plight

of the masses. No mention is made of the massive 45-50% unemployment of the labour force. Or the absence of basic food, the inadequate public transport, and the poor health, education and recreational facilities.

Instead we find the preposterous statement, that "development is the precursor of welfare." Not even the hardest right wing capitalist would in 1985 define development as an objective separate from welfare.

To find this statement in a self-styled socialist government's major publication shows how incompetent and removed from the world around them are those who defend the privileged positions of those who control political and economic power in Guyana.

*The fourth feature is that not only does the budget have nothing new to say, but it actually admits this!

After 20 years of our sad experiences the Minister can still claim: "the comments which I am about to make on our development priorities, Comrade Speaker, contain no new revelations.

"Indeed, they represent a restatement of the salient ideas which have informed the actions of this government over the past two decades" (p 13). In other words they have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing.

*The fifth feature is the antiworking threat implicit in its narrowly financial approach.

How to correct the balance of payments: How to reduce the government's deficit?, etc, are questions whose answers at this stage of crisis, are no longer possible in financial terms.

To approach the problem this way means more pressures on the people's living standards, already below colonial levels, and further debasement of the currency, with none of the anticipated results achieved.

A technical approach, let alone one so narrowly framed in financial terms is a certain recipe for more crisis.

*The sixth feature is the revelation of continued efforts to woo the IMF.

Pursuit of friends in the socialist community is a well known PNC tactic to pressure the IMF-World Bank-Washington axis to provide balance of payments support.

It is not working because at this stage all serious observers realise that a solution to the crisis is not compatible with minority undemocratic control and regulation of the society. The stalemate therefore continues.

Little has been said on the new taxes in the budget, because the major ones are those in the hidden budget. Yet the ineptness of the budget is also revealed in these taxes.

TUC Reaction

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 27 Jan 85 p 13

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The Guyana Labour Movement says recent tax increases here will erode government's latest minimum wage hike and produce a 20 to 30 percent rise in the cost of living.

Leslie Melville, Press spokesman for the Trades Union Congress (TUC), umbrella body for the movement here, said its conclusion was based on an analysis of the 1985 budget and its impact on the work force.

Higher (eight to 25 percent) consumption taxes on a wide range of goods, including kerosene, cement, clothes, bandages and refrigerators, have just been announced here, along with increased fees for driving and motor vehicle licences and TV sets.

The taxes follow a rise in the minimum wage from \$12.79

(about BDS\$5.88) to \$15.10 a day (about BDS\$6.94).

Mr. Melville said the analysis by Minister of Finance, Carl Greenidge, of last year's economic performance here was "misleading when it is considered that by the budget's own estimate real income per head was lower than in 1983, and this was still lower than in 1970 and one third below that of 1975".

Mr. Melville said it must be the concern of the nation that sugar production for 1984 was the lowest for the past 30 years and that the output of rice was about 40 percent below past peak outputs, and in spite of the increased production in the bauxite industry over 1983, the performance of the industry was still "way below its past performances".

He said it was "unfortunate

that the minister failed to inform the nation of the rising levels of unemployment which now stand at over 30 percent." The TUC, he added "was more interested in knowing how many new jobs would be created in 1985 instead of the veiled threats made by the minister when speaking about the structural changes the government intends introducing".

The TUC he said, "agrees with the government that increased production and productivity must be our immediate goal if we must turn the economy around, by a more favourable balance of payment position and a narrowed government deficit, but this would not be achieved by financial tinkering but a larger socio economic analysis and approach". (CANA)

Hoyte Reply to Opposition

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by Vanessa Cort]

[Text] Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte yesterday pledged Government's commitment to the construction of a democratic socialist society and again stressed the necessity for developing self-reliance and independent thought. He also spoke of efforts to bring about national cohesion through a national cultural identity and decried the Opposition's contention that the party in power had brought the country from "ashes" to the present situation where Guyanese were proud of themselves and their achievements.

The Minority Leader claimed that by all indications the country was on the verge of bankruptcy and collapse. He charged that the standard of living of workers was steadily declining and social services collapsing.

"They (the Government) inherited a sound situation (when they took over from the PPP in 1964): Dr Jagan insisted. "We are up to our necks today, in debt."

The Minority Leader quoted figures which he said illustrated the escalation of the National debt predicting a worsening of the situation as production declined.

Contending that production and welfare were "inextricably linked," the Minority leader said that there could be no development without proper welfare facilities and vice versa.

He contended that the minimum wage set by Government was inadequate and said people were forced to eat "pig feed" in the form of broken and discoloured rice, despite Government's insistence that there was an abundance of food.

Prime Minister Hoyte rejected Dr Jagan's arguments saying that the PNC had brought "monumental progress" to the country, raised the standard of living and earned the country international respect.

He quoted figures indicating that in 1964 the PPP was running a "salt goods shop" as compared with 1984, when the situation both financially and economically had vastly improved.

The Gross National Savings in 1964, Cde Hoyte said, was \$36 million as compared with \$780m in 1984. Similarly 20 years after the PPP was ousted, the Gross National Product had increased by some 366 percent.

While the PPP Leader complained of insufficient supplies of food reaching the country's sugar workers, the Prime Minister pointed to improved conditions in practically every sphere of life in the country.

The PNC, he said, 'had moved the University of Guyana from "under a bottom house" and built the Turkeyen campus. The PNC had also built the Cyril Potter and Lillian Dewar Colleges, the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, the Burrowes School of Art, the Kuru Kuru Cooperative College and many other Institutions of learning.

He said improvements in health were illustrated by the increase in health centres and health personnel--including doctors and dental surgeons. In addition, improved housing has been provided throughout the "length and breadth" of Guyana.

Responding to the PPP Leader's allegation that there was much political and racial discrimination in Guyana, the Prime Minister pointed to Government's moves to bring about national cohesion with the establishment of a National Cultural Centre, promoting a national cultural identity.

And, rebutting the Minority Leader's allegations about rejection of PPP proposals for dialogue with the Government, Cde Hoyte said the PNC was prepared to talk with any group. "We are not afraid to talk with the PPP...or with anybody," the Prime Minister asserted, but he cautioned the Opposition not to misinterpret the recent letter from Deputy Leader of the PNC, Cde Ptolemy Reid, to the PPP.

The time had come, he felt, for the PPP to play its part in the country's political life. Cde Hoyte accused the PPP of defaulting on constitutional rights, by frequent walk-outs and failure to participate in other activities. There was currently no place, he argued, for people who were afraid to come out and encourage production.

The PNC, Cde Hoyte pledged, would continue to give leadership to the Guyanese people, remaining faithful to its mandate, "whatever the cost." And to the detractors of Party paramountcy he had this to say:

"We need to do practical work and we have to do it through the Party...every State is a Party State. It is the party which devises the policy." To everyone in the House and the nation at large he called: "Let us get on with the job."

National Assembly Action

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly, on a motion by Minister of Finance Carl Greenidge yesterday approved the 1985 budget of \$1,557 billion.

Minority Members present did not participate during consideration of the estimates in the Committee of Supply.

As a result, the Appropriation Bill was passed without debate on the details.

Jackson on Foreign Interference

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Narmala Shewcharan]

[Text]

Guyana's thrust for survival must be realistically assessed against an international scenario in which economic issues become political weapons by those who seek to manipulate the policies of developing countries.

Against this background utilisation of indigenous technology, continued exploitation of local resources and renewed efforts toward self-sufficiency remain the priorities and objectives of this nation toward further development.

These points were made by two Government Ministers when the general debate on the 1985 Budget continued yesterday.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashleigh Jackson, tracing the international situation, referred to the practices of some analysts who maliciously and erroneously seek to place effects of the

international crisis on the shoulders of the PNC Government.

He said: "They need to see reality not as they dream it but as it really is." Focusing on the competition between the capitalist and the socialist systems, he noted that their differences were reflected in the political and economic relations. Socialist countries have their problems, hard currency shortage and technological restrictions being but two of these.

He referred to the double-standards, the chameleon status of the powers who seek to interfere in the affairs of developing countries, noting that those who do not subscribe to Guyana's political policies will use every device to prevent the pursuit of development.

He called for continued co-operation among developing

countries, noting the need for them to negate the efforts of those developed countries, who would stymie the efforts of the Third World.

Among the initiatives which he said would be sustained are:

- ☆ the increase and intensification of relations with socialist countries;

- ☆ Efforts in South/ South co-operation, thus strengthening links and the capacity to resist machinations.

He observed, however, that this did not mean a neglect in relations with governments of the West, and noted that such relationships can be mutually beneficial, providing these countries respect Guyana's sovereignty.

Cde Jackson noted that the Budget proposals were

reflective of the policy of "feeding ourselves and maximum utilisation of our resources."

He said: "Guyana is the showcase for the independence of a small country... a country determined to pursue in an uninhibited way, its goals for socialist transition."

Minister of Energy and Mines, Harun Rashid, tracing the role of energy in the recovery of the economy said: "No branch of our economy can escape the impact of rising energy costs."

He said that now was the time for restructuring of energy consumption and moving toward reduction of fuel imports.

The Minister projected that sufficient local resources were available to generate fuel, with the adequate technology.

For such generation he referred to the utilisation of sawdust, wood-waste, charcoal and rice husk.

The Minister highlighted Government's intention to promote charcoal as a major industry, noting that this

could become a major source of energy.

Minister Rashid noted too that the expansion of the charcoal industry could also generate additional employment. He said that some persons, rather than being derisive of the Government's efforts to promote use of local resources, should instead be constructively critical and encourage support from the people.

Noting that indigenous fuels existed in abundance in this country, he referred to the hydro-power project which he said was "indicative of our determination to get on with hydro ... Government will lay a bill before Parliament to establish a hydro-power authority."

He said: "While we are not out of the woods, there are positive indications that Guyana's economic recovery will be accelerated in 1985."

Chief Whip Bidiawattie Tiwari addressed the House on the need to remove ineffective subsidies, noting that these are not serving the intended objectives when they help create artificially low prices for goods and support

the machinations of the parallel market.

Cde Tiwari said that a pricing policy must lend itself to continued production and practicable allocation of resources. She said that it must be recognised that, in the light of the moving price structure, the removal of ineffectual subsidies was welcome.

Other speakers included the PPP's Boysie Ramkarran, Reepu Daman Persaud and the PNC's Howard London and Joshu Chowritmootoo.

Cde Chowritmootoo stressed the need for self-sufficiency within the economy, with the focus on food as a political weapon. Cde London traced developmental projects in the country, examining the transition to socialism. And Cde Persaud called for proper planning in the agriculture field.

Cde Persaud contended that the Minister of Finance, in his Budget proposals, did not tackle the parallel market.

GUYANA

PPP ORGAN ASSESSES TUC, POLLYDORE, DANIELS SITUATIONS

Georgetown MIRROR In English 20 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] 'During 1984 wherever one turned, one heard the same tale of dismay, that is, things are bad and seemed to be getting worse each day. One heard complaints about rising unemployment, scarcity of essential commodities, skyrocketing prices, crimes and discriminatory employment practices.'

That was TUC General Secretary, Joseph Pollydore, taking stock as 1984 came to a close. Pollydore has been with us for a long time in the labour movement and is no 'enemy of the state' or government. But from the treatment he gets from the state media these days, it seems as though he has been honoured with the title of 'Prophet of Doom.'

The same 'silent' (mal)treatment is extended to the labour movement's President George Daniels, who noting that in the 'past year things have not been in favour of the workers' listed the following:

- 1) The rate of unemployment grew as a result of retrenchment, termination, dismissals without cause, etc.;
- 2) the prices of goods and services, when available, accelerated to unbearable levels;
- 3) the process of collective bargaining has been restricted in that trade unions were denied their traditional rights of bargaining to finality with Public Sector Managements for improved conditions for workers whom they represent;
- 4) there was the introduction and hasty passage in Parliament of the Labour Amendment Act, some elements of which are considered to adversely affect workers' rights without consultation within the TUC;
- 5) there has been the introduction of new economic measures without the involvement of the TUC in discussions;
- 6) workers have been continuously denied the right to be kept informed, through the government media, of developments in the trade union and industrial relations scene, since releases made by the TUC have not been always carried by these agencies.

How do these statements compare with the constant rhetoric, rosy promises and near utopian description of Guyana by top government and ruling party officials? It is clear that the regime would not listen to even friendly criticism. It needs great help to solve the economic morass but is unwilling to make even an iota of concession that would in any way limit its political stranglehold.

The Executive President said 1984 'wasn't a bad year after all.' If it is true, and this a widespread belief that this is election year, then what can one expect of the President?

But surely, what the TUC strongmen said may well give the impression that these people are talking of two different countries.

President Burnham, in his year end speech, said 'we must mobilise and inspire every loyal Guyanese for the task, the battle to establish socialism in Guyana.' Notwithstanding that Pollydore, who publicly supports the government's claims to be building socialism, made out 'generally there is a feeling of widespread discontent and disillusionment.' How the government would mobilise the people under such a situation is another wonder of the world.

Both Daniels and Pollydore see the need for the labour movement to cooperate with the government in reaching national objectives, since as Pollydore said, 'problems are not incurable once given the right treatment, once all concerned are prepared to cooperate to grapple with them.' It seems that the issue at the moment is not the people's cooperation with the government but the other way round.

The kind of cooperation from the government in the past is clearly unsatisfactory. Take for instance the recent wage increases announced by the President during the government/TUC wages talks. Said Pollydore, of the increases, many of those who received such payments, only the memory now remains with them that they had been able to make payments towards their indebtedness and buy a few essential items, mainly food.'

The biggest problem that has to be solved is the 'widespread discontent and disillusionment in the country over the present state of economic affairs.' To solve this problem one must find the root cause which is hinted at by Pollydore. 'This problem,' he said 'is the [word illegible] of the workers' experience with the number of instances in which the government sometimes with the covert support of some trade union leaders, contemptuously exercised political power and bureaucratic pressures against the interest of workers and their trade unions.'

TUC President, George Daniels, has pledged that his executive will continue to 'protect the interest of the Guyanese workers.' And he is optimistic about the future. Said Daniels, 'All that has gone before would give the impression that all is lost; but far from that. Things have only began and there would be improvement in the workers' welfare.' In the meantime, the TUC is pushing ahead to get government to continue with wages talks since the \$15.10 minimum announced was supposed to be an interim payout before the final outcome of the negotiations.

GUYANA

PPP COMMENTS ON WAGES, DISCERNS DISGUISED CAPITALISM

Georgetown MIRROR in English 20 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party has issued the following statement:

The ruling PNC claims that it is committed to egalitarianism and socialism. But practice shows that this is not so. A form of capitalism (bureaucratic-state, parasitic and cooperative instead of free enterprise) is masquerading as socialism.

The latest proof of this is the miserly increase in wages for the workers and fantastic hikes for the elite. Sugar and bauxite workers, who are receiving starvation wages have been given the same 10% increase as the top managerial elite with exorbitant salaries and allowances. On nationalisation, this so-called socialist government had retained the extremely high salaries and perquisites paid by Bookers and Jessels (sugar) Demba and Reynolds (bauxite). Now, it is widening the gap between the bottom and the top. This is no socialism.

Equally, if not more, shameful has been the fabulous increases in salaries and allowances to the ruling political elite. The PPP condemns these increases as callous. They indicate utter contempt for the suffering masses. Ministers were already overpaid. So were the Speaker and PNC parliamentarians in an institution which hardly functions the way the PPP wants it to do.

The ruling elite is moving in the direction opposite to what the labour movement demands. The PPP had called for cuts in ministerial salaries and suggested other judicious cuts in expenditure. Some of these were also proposed by the TUC to find money for workers' wages.

The PPP also sharply condemns the PNC regime for the steep increases in taxation. For far less taxation under the PPP Kaldor budget, the PNC led the workers into riots, looting and arson in 1962.

The PNC government is step by step adopting IMF "prescriptions." The labour movement must call a halt to this.

The PPP calls on the workers and other democratic and progressive forces to unite and fight for improved wages and working conditions and free and fair elections, coupled to a political solution for a National Patriotic Front Government. The fight must begin now.

GUYANA

TUC, GOVERNMENT CONTINUE PUBLIC SECTOR WAGE TALKS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

A GOVERNMENT team is scheduled to meet with the Guyana Trades Union Congress again on February 8 to continue discussions on wages and salaries for workers in the public sector.

This was disclosed yesterday by Cde Samuel Rudolph Thorne, Principal Assistant Secretary of the TUC.

The first session between the two sides for 1985 took place Tuesday.

Cde Thorne said that the

date for the resumption was agreed on at Tuesday's meeting at which the TUC's delegation was led by President George Daniels.

Minister of Finance, Cde Carl Greenidge, led the Government's team which included Cde Kenneth Denny, Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives.

Cde Thorne said that the two sides identified some of the matters for discussion at the next meeting. And it was also agreed that after the

February 8 meeting there would be a break. But when the talks resume meetings would be held twice weekly in an effort to conclude the negotiations.

Meanwhile, the TUC contended in a statement yesterday that the 1985 Budget will result in a steep rise in the cost of living and would nullify any gains public sector workers would have acquired as a result of the pay increases granted by the Government last year.

CSO: 3298/412

GUYANA

GENERAL UNREST MARKS START OF FIRST '85 SUGAR CROP

Georgetown MIRROR in English 20 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] With hardly a full working week into the 1985 First Crop, the state-owned sugar industry has already attracted several strikes and general unrest on the estates. Labour sources hinted that the unrest is most likely to spill over into positive action as workers are agitated over the imposition of a meagre two-days' annual production incentive by the local sugar bosses for 1984.

There have been reports of strikes at LBU, Enmore and Uitvlugt and work stoppages at Albion and Blairmont estates. At LBI and Enmore, where 95 percent of field and factory workers were protesting against the absence of supplies of safety and yatching boots, workers also raised other grouses including the vexed API payout, and shortage of essential food supplies.

While the LBI action lasted one day, the workers at Enmore held out for three days, ending their action yesterday. Enmore sugar workers complained that for weeks their community has not been supplied with potable water, nor with basic food items. Although estate management made requisition from the regional authorities three weeks ago, no supplies have been made, sources told MIRROR.

Workers also raised the question of nonpayment of sickness benefit which is normally payable at the beginning of the first crop. It is understood that no payments would be made until February 1.

At Uitvlugt factory, workers downed tools in protest against the manipulation of a qualified plumber, J. Douden, who was being shifted from plumbing to the tools section, and from the tools section back to plumbing, then back to the tools section. The strike started on January 14 last and was continuing up to yesterday.

At Albion there were work stoppages involving estate chauffeurs and at Blairmont sugar workers protected the dismissal of a colleague.

CSO: 3298/413

GUYANA

MINISTER DISCUSSES CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 20 Jan 85 p 3

[Article by P.H. Daly: "Changing the Industrial Climate"]

[Text]

The changes planned to be made this year in the sector of industrial relations were indicated by Cde Kenneth Denny, Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives when he recently opened the course of industrial relations in 1984.

Cde Denny said industrial relations during the past year were stable though there were stoppages of work on many sugar estates.

He said during this year the government hoped to pass a number of bills in favour of labour, two of which he identified as the Trade Union Recognition Bill and the Severance Pay Bill. These "Bills" have been with the TUC for some time and government still awaits the organisation's reaction to them.

The Minister made clear the purifying process by which government intends to cleanse the industrial climate of the bacteria which takes the form of political strikes and then to invigorate the climate with the Severance Pay Bill for the benefit of workers.

Purification will remove from the industrial climate the politically inspired work

stoppage which reduces production and foreign earnings.

Invigoration of the climate with the Severance Pay Bill should stimulate production by assuring workers that their rights are guaranteed by law.

The totality of those changes will make a contribution to economic recovery and the consolidation of national independence.

Cde Denny, commenting on the opening of shops on Sunday, said the Sunday opening had been introduced only for the Christmas season, but he saw nothing wrong in making Sunday a normal working day.

Since an issue of religion inevitably arises, the inevitable religious answer lies in the well-known statement—"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

It is a fact that throughout the world today the Christian and non-Christian world—people work on Sundays. If people did not do essential tasks on

Sunday other people would suffer and die.

Therefore, which of the two represents the goodness and humanitarianism for which all religions stand? To work on Sunday and save lives and human suffering or to do nothing on Sunday while people suffer and die?

The answer is obvious and, particularly, in a Socialist society where people are the nation's greatest resources, work which benefits people should be done on Sundays.

Therefore, Cde Denny's comment that he saw nothing wrong in shops being opened on Sunday is theologically and pragmatically sound.

Indeed, without intending to be cynical I may point out that when the collection plates are taken around in churches on Sundays the action represents a business transaction.

Therefore, in the plan to purify the industrial relations climate of its politically reactionary elements and to invigorate it with benefits for the workers, thought should also be given to making the climate pragmatically aligned to satisfying the needs of people on Sundays.

GUYANA

WIDESCALE PROMOTIONS IN DEFENSE FORCE REPORTED

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] The GDF (Guyana Defence Force), has made a number of promotions in its ranks. As gazetted these are:

To Lt Colonel G A Maynard to acting Lt Colonel C H Liverpool and C S Austin; to Acting Major H E Fields and P I Duncan. To local Major A Hope.

To substantive Captain: M Payne; L A Watson, L M McClean, R P Campbell, D Eversley, W Branche, P A Chesney, A E Edwards, J A Rayman, G W Gomes, R R Sami, R Denny, C A Benjamin.

To acting Captain: J Clarke, M Harte, C A S Henry, E M Witter, R H Storm, C King, M Rohlehr, S Canzius, D Totaram, O Sandiford, G Gouveia, J. Roman, P E Cummings, S P Aaron, C G Moore.

To substantive Lieutenant: J B Lovell, D S Fields, M F Collins, C. Jainandan, K E Braithwaite, T A Pompey, L L Chance, N A Patrick, M A Phillips, E M Witter, Y E Smith, M A Barrington, T G Stuart, B A A Semple, C H Thompson, M Charles, D E Levan, L A Carroll, M J Harripaul.

To acting Lieutenant: S O Europe, G S Elcock, D S Adams, K A Dalrymple, D M Europe, J P Flores, R Fraser, G V Gudge, G A Lewis, R Persaud, D I T Roberts, B Saulmaya, T Singh, B Sharma, E Gaskin, W F A King, S Palmer, H Slowe, F A Abrahams, A A Henry, K Persaud, I Alert and A M Austin.

Reserve Officers promoted are as follows:

A S Godette from Acting Lt Colonel to substantive Colonel; M Welch, O Cambridge, and K Lall from acting Captain to substantive Captain; R Daniels from acting Lt to acting Captain (with effect from January 1, 1984). P Brayn, G Blue, J Jerrick, P Hamilton and G Fogenay from second Lt to acting Lieutenant.

MIRROR understands that the PPP is in touch with high circles in the central government over personnel recruitment policy into the disciplined forces.

CSO: 3298/413

GUYANA

PROGRESS ON REGIONALIZATION STRESSED; ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Leaders in Region 3

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] **FARMERS in Region Three will air problems facing their production efforts when they meet a team of high level government officials and agriculture support staff at Den Amstel Primary School today.**

Minister in the Agriculture Ministry, Simpson Da Silva, explained yesterday that of some concern is the loss of crops in the area because of the unavailability of

agricultural machinery, particularly combines.

Prime Minister, Desmond Hoyte and Minister Da Silva will be on the team meeting farmers at Den Amstel, from 17:00 hrs.

Minister Da Silva explained that the visit will assist in ensuring the area's farmers receive the support they need.

Agriculture Ministry officials, accompanied by personnel from agencies such

as the Regional Ministry, Guyana Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, and Lands and Surveys Department, have been making regular visits to farming areas to view developments and hear farmers' problems.

Visits have already been made to Silver Hill, Mocha, Lancaster, Mara and Black Bush Polder among other areas. (GNA)

RDC Restructuring in Region 10

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Jan 85 p 5

[Text]

LINDEN: [GNA]-- Several sub-committees of the Region Ten Regional Democratic Council [RDC] will be restructured during this year, according to Chairman of the Council, Cde Patricia Daniels.

Making this disclosure at a recent RDC meeting, the Chairman said that such steps

have become necessary to enable the Council to have effective and efficient functioning sub-committees for executing its work.

In some instances, she explained, more than one councillor might be placed on one sub-committee, especially in cases where a heavy workload is anticipated.

Cde Daniels said that

during last year some of the sub-committees of the Council did not perform to the desired level and it is those sub-committees particularly that will have to be restructured.

The sub-committees of the RDC are small community groups headed by a councillor from the Council, and are responsible for some form of social activity in the Region.

Government Shift to Regions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by George Alleyne]

[Text] The reconfiguring of Ministries and reallocating of people to the Regions, which began in 1984, have to be completed and implemented during the first quarter of this year. Finance Minister Carl Greenidge said so when explaining the rationale for the structural change which needs to be effected to deepen regionalism.

Presenting the budgetary proposals for 1985 in the National Assembly last Friday, Minister Greenidge, said "we must begin with those ministries and institutions which are the main users of funds and which hold a crucial role in decision-making."

In justifying this move of personnel and facilities to the Regions, he said "the resources on whose development the economic well-being of the country depends are distributed over the ten Administrative Regions, and neither the detailed planning for the development of those resources, nor the monitoring of plan implementation can be effectively undertaken exclusively from Georgetown.

"The nation's financial state demands the efficient execution of projects and, prompt decisionmaking--particularly with respect to agricultural production," he declared.

The State Planning Commission, the Ministries of Works, Education and Agriculture, are included in those agencies from which a significant proportion of employees should be based in the Regions.

Cde Greenidge said that without this transfer "the public sector deficit will be exacerbated by the continued existence of a bloated, ineffectual, centralised bureaucracy, and an undermanned, inadequately supervised Regional Administration."

Addressing the Supreme Congress of the People last month, President Forbes Burnham said that the ten Administrative regions each have responsibility for several projects of national significance. He mentioned a number of projects which are to be implemented in the Regions this year.

Some are the new phase of the MMA project, the Korea-Guyana Agricultural Complex at Abary Park, the Cuba-Guyana legume project, the Yugoslavia-Guyana corn and soya project, the Bulgaria-Guyana Agricultural Complex, and the Guyana-Cuba tobacco growing enterprise.

The President said: "The call on our human resources will be great. From this flow two related consequences: the regions need the best personnel to perform their tasks, and the place for the expert and experienced is in the Region."

Ideological Training

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Jan 85 p 2

[Text]

The People's National Congress is to intensify its programme of ideological training so that cadres could better pursue the policies set out by the Party and motivate those in their respective communities.

From its inception, the PNC identified itself as a Socialist Party with the object of creating a better society and one in which there will be no exploitation of man by man.

Part of this programme includes exchanges with fraternal parties and organisations, seminars and lectures.

From tomorrow the Secretariat of the Party will be sponsoring a one-week ideological training programme for field officers and Regional Supervisors. The programme will be conducted at the Kuru Kuru Co-operative College.

Deputy Leader of the Party, Cde Ptolemy Reid; Central Committee member and Prime Minister, Cde Desmond Hoyte; General Secretary, Cde Ranji Chandisingh; Assistant General Secretary, Cde Urmia Johnson and other leading PNC officials are to address the participants.

Region 2 Ideological Sessions

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Jan 85 p 2

[Text]

Activists of the People's National Congress in Region Two, Pomeroon/Supenaam, have taken the lead in initiating ideological training programmes for the cadres there to strengthen their capability and accessibility to the people whom they serve.

Last Sunday, the first in a series of one-day sessions was held at the Anna Regina Multilateral School, where Regional Chairman, Cde Kenneth Hopkinson, in a discussion with 40 participants, said that he was extremely heartened by the initiative shown by the Party workers and the activists themselves, to improve their skills and their knowledge of the Socialist ideology.

Cde Hopkinson said that training should be an ongoing process and not a "shot-in-the-arm business," if it is to be meaningful.

PNC General Secretary, Cde Ranji Chandisingh, who presented a paper based on

the theme of the seminar, "The Role of The Activist," said that activists should seize every opportunity to familiarise themselves with socio-political and economic development in Guyana, the Caribbean, Latin America and even farther afield.

Cde Chandisingh said that the experiences of other Third World countries should be lessons for Guyana so that the same mistakes are not repeated.

He said the experiences should also serve to aid in the establishment of lines of communication with other Third World countries through exchange programmes, visits, lectures, film and other channels.

Other lecturers at the seminar included Comrades Derek Boston, Ronald Benn and Eugene Gilbert, Cde Doreen Duncan, Regional Secretary, in her presentation, elaborated on the programme of activities for the rest of the year.

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 27 Jan 85 p 8

[Article by Leon Walcott]

[Text] **THE rate of this country's development depends on the pace at which the process of regionalisation takes place, since a significant number of Guyana's capital development projects are scattered throughout the 10 Administrative Regions.**

But, for it to succeed, regionalisation will have to be accompanied by the movement of people from the coastal area to the hinterland.

Although the policy decision to regionalise and to encourage persons to move from the coast to the hinterland was taken several years ago, it was only last year that steps were taken to relocate personnel from the Government Ministries to the Regions where they would be able to function more effectively.

However, the physical relocation will have to be accompanied by mental conditioning to get rid of the Georgetown syndrome which afflicts many of this country's technical personnel.

Therefore, the success of the move to relocate Government personnel to the Regions will rest largely with the degree of support given to those working in the Regions by Head Office staff.

Quite often, staff at the Head Offices of various Ministries have been accused of being insensitive to the conditions under which Field (Regional) Officers have to work.

In the past, one of the Ministries consistently blamed for its lack of sensitivity was the Ministry of Education whose clerks seemed to take a perverse delight in telling teachers who travelled long distances to Georgetown to "check back later."

Guyana, like many other developing countries, is faced

with a population dispersal problem. In our case, 90 per cent of the country's population is concentrated along the narrow coastal strip which stretches from Morawhanna in the North West District to Crabwood Creek in Berbice.

The only exceptions to this general population pattern are the mining towns of Linden, Kwakwani and Bartica, all of which lie about 50 miles from the coastland.

This uneven distribution of population has resulted in the underutilisation of the nation's resources, most of which are located away from the coastal belt.

The importance of people moving from the coast to the hinterland was emphasised by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge when he presented the 1985 budget to the National Assembly last Friday. According to the Minister, "the objective of (Regionalism) is that of identifying and utilising op-

timally within a framework of co-operatives, the resources native to each Region."

Cde. Greenidge noted that the resources on whose development the economic well being of this country depends are distributed throughout the regions. The 10 Administrative Regions, have the responsibility for implementing several projects of national significance.

Unfortunately, the distribution of human resources is unbalanced with some regions being more populated than others. In fact, the largest region, is woefully under-populated followed by Regions Seven and Eight. Sadly, these are the regions which are richest in natural resources—oil in the Takatu Basin and gold in the Marudi mountains and the Cuyuni and Mazaruni areas. In addition, most of our uranium and timber resources are found in these three regions.

These resources can only be

exploited if the regions where they exist are suitably populated. As was noted by President Forbes Burnham last month when he addressed the Supreme Congress of the people: "...the regions need the best personnel to perform their tasks, and the place for the expert and experienced is in the regions."

The dispersion of the population from the coastland to the hinterland will call for a resurgence of the pioneering spirit of the 1940s and 1950s when many men sought their fortunes in the gold fields and in the bauxite mines.

According to the 1985 budget, a significant number of the country's capital development projects are located away from the coast, therefore the human resources needed to run them will have to be located nearby. This will result in a need for more interior settlements to accommodate workers and their families.

But while the need for the building of more settlement exists, it is more important that efficient transportation and communication links be set up between the hinterland and the coast.

At present, it takes the greater part of one day to travel from the nearest gold mining area to Georgetown.

And the people who will be going into the interior will need to be assured of easy access to transportation, in order to market their products. Many farmers along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway and in the Pomeroon and North West Districts lose thousands of dollars in spoiled crops because of the unavailability of transportation.

Perhaps it may be a good idea to copy our Brazilian neighbours and re-site the capital away from the coast, thereby forcing a movement of people to the hinterland where they are needed most.

Burnham Attack on 'Coastalitis'

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 27 Jan 85 p 8

[Text]

GUYANESE need to overcome the problem of "Coastalitis", President Forbes Burnham yesterday told a large gathering at the Sophia Convention Centre when referring to the Central Government's thrust to "regionalise" its operations.

He was making his first major intervention at the current General Council Meeting of the Ruling People's National Congress (PNC) in which he stressed the need for more citizens to be deployed within the Regions where the bulk of the nation's resources are to be found.

Unless we overcome the problem of "Coastalitis," our efforts at development are doomed to fail, he told the gathering which included Heads of Government Corporations, Ministries, departments and agencies who had been specially invited to the meeting.

In the context of his remarks, "Coastalitis" should

be taken to mean the deeply-rooted but completely outdated urge to live and to work on the country's narrow strip of coastland, particularly in the city.

Cde Burnham explained that Regionalism lends itself to greater efficiency and is based upon the perception that progress would be achieved more readily through the greater involvement of the people in their respective communities for the people are knowledgeable about the conditions and resources in their communities.

In this regard, however, it was necessary that they be granted the appropriate assistance through ready access to the relevant skills.

He noted that in Georgetown, there are no large drainage and irrigation projects and that no large undertakings such as the proposed hydro-power schemes and agri and agro-industrial projects earmarked for the regions are envisaged

for Georgetown.

As such, it has become of crucial importance that the skills required in the regions be deployed away from the city and into the Regions.

Cde Burnham gave as an example in support of his argument, a livestock project in the Berbice area which was affected by flooding primarily because the person who had to ensure the necessary facilities were in place was operating from Georgetown and was not fully apprised of the situation on the ground.

And, noting that the Government will take very seriously its programme this year to "Regionalise," he stressed that the traditional excuses such as there are no schools available in the regions will not be acceptable.

"Your families can go with you. There are good schools in the regions," he pointed out adding that it will be the Region's responsibility to ensure that accommodation is provided. (GNA).

Role of RDC's

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Vanessa Cort]

[Text]

MINISTER of National Mobilisation, Cde Robert Corbin, yesterday stressed the important role of the Regional Democratic Councils in attaining the developmental goals set for the Regions in the year ahead.

Speaking during the debate on the Budget, the Minister said that regional developmental efforts must focus on a rational choice of programmes and their speedy implementation.

No one, he said, could fault the system of local democracy promoted by the Government, as it allowed the people of the various localities to take charge of their own

affairs.

Cde Corbin acknowledged that the Government had made errors but argued that in the areas of establishing democracy, pursuing the socialist ideology and moving towards self-reliance there had been "absolutely no mistakes."

He was responding to remarks by Michael Abraham of the United Force, who criticised the Government's move toward self-reliance and food self-sufficiency.

Abraham charged that the Government was attempting to dictate what its population should eat. He said that social

services were in disarray, the standard of education was plummeting and food supplies were inadequate.

But Minister Corbin rejected this view totally as he declared that the Government has had a history of achievement, developing from logies to self-help houses, from brick to paved roads.

Outlining aspects of the regional programmes, he said emphasis would be placed on the development of pastures, improvement of storage facilities for agriculture products, the establishment of nurseries and drainage and irrigation works. Regional Democratic Councils would be charged with the responsibility of planning and monitoring current projects and setting targets for 1986.

Agricultural task forces, with representation for farmers, would be set up to plan and monitor agriculture programmes, among other duties, and agricultural sub-committees will also be established.

He stated that the Public Service Ministry and the Ministry of Regional Development have been working to upgrade technical levels and expertise needed in

the Regions. The overall objective was to provide the Regions with the type of personnel needed to carry out programmes.

Broad guidelines, staff development and training and other such services would be provided by the central administration.

Speaking earlier, Cde Joyce Munroe (PNC) was fully supportive of the move towards decentralisation and the transference of skilled personnel to the Regions to enhance development.

She argued that the Regions each have their own resources, some exploited, some yet to be tapped and the Regions needed the personnel on-the-spot to make decisions and deal with problems.

"No one can deny that the regional system is a good one which will continue to improve despite any odds," she asserted.

PPP Backbencher, Harry Persaud Nokta, was not so optimistic. He felt that the country had retrogressed in practically every sphere, particularly air, sea and road transport, and accused the Government of giving socialism a bad name.

He called for immediate re-examination of planning strategies.

Reorganization in Education

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 85 p 8

[Article by Narmala Shewcharan]

[Text]

CONTINUED
restructuring of the management system, consistent with regionalism, is foremost among the execution strategies for improvement within the Ministry of Education this year.

The Ministry, in moves to foster values relative to national development, is also to place continued emphasis on the role of agriculture in schools. Minister of Education, Malcolm Parris,

explained this Monday evening during the Budget debate when he spoke of efforts by the Ministry to effect continued development.

"The Ministry of Education, in 1985, will execute its responsibilities and rise to the challenge of development within our means," he said in response to PPP Member, Feroze Mohammed who spoke of problems in the education system and called for action, "totally, in the interest of the people."

Minister Parris spoke of increased emphasis on community and parental

participation in the pursuits for this year.

Among the proposals for improvement outlined by the Minister were:

- ☆ the need to further develop the management system.
- ☆ maximising the use of scarce resources
- ☆ improvement of the internal and external system within schools.
- ☆ retention of skills
- ☆ improvement of standards in key examinations such as GCE and CXC
- ☆ establishing links between education and work; and
- ☆ continued pursuit of international duty by making education facilities available to other developing countries such as Cuba and Zimbabwe.

Action to implement these proposals would include the regionalisation of resources and the implementation of a rational and achievable incentive programme.

Earlier PPP's Mohammed had identified as urgent concerns the need for im-

proved conditions for teachers; the need to grade secondary schools; to look at the programme of Community High Schools and the possible expansion of adult education programmes.

Minister Parris noted that the programme for Community High Schools will be re-organised to facilitate specialisation necessary for development. A syllabus to include commercial and craft subjects will also delve into non-traditional areas such as dance and drama.

The Department of Culture is to manage a portfolio of activities, toward further efforts at supporting creativity,

fostering drama and musical interests, contributing to the quality of films and initiating more cultural programmes.

Standards at the zoo and the National Museum are to be upgraded. A Gallery of Arts is scheduled to be opened this year, the Minister said.

And, the National Archives is to host the Caribbean Archivists Conference. The Minister, noting, that education was an integral aspect of development, said that the Ministry would make every effort to increase qualitatively the return on education investment in this nation.

GUYANA

TASS INTERVIEWS MINISTER ON PATRICE LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY

LD311649 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, 31 Jan--Mikhail Fokine dispatch--It is hard to overestimate the assistance given by the Soviet Union to Guyana and other developing countries in the field of public education, said Malcolm Parris, senior minister of education, social development and culture of Guyana. Speaking in a TASS interview on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Patrice Lumumba Friendship University in Moscow, he stressed the great international significance of this event. Throughout these years, he said, the Lumumba University has been training personnel for developing countries, thus giving internationalist assistance to young states in their efforts to overcome their social and economic difficulties, strengthen their independence and achieve progress in all fields.

Next July, the minister went on, the first group of our young men and women, graduates of Lumumba University, are to return home. All of them will be employed in the state sector.

One advantage of the Soviet system of personnel training, he said, is that immediately upon graduation the students return to their countries and may be actively used in different, including most advanced, branches of the economy for the benefit of their countries and peoples. By contrast, the Western countries where foreign students are also trained, are concerned, above all, about their own interests and are trying to persuade the most capable graduates from developing countries to stay behind by promising them higher pay in comparison with their own countries.

In conclusion M. Parris thanked the Soviet Union for its assistance to Guyana and for its understanding of Guyana's problems and expressed the hope for the further development of cooperation and mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

CSO: 3298/415

GUYANA

TRAWLERS BACK AT SEA AFTER HIJACKING, SHRIMPERS IN PORT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

NINE trawlers of Guyana Fisheries Limited put out to sea yesterday to continue shrimping exercises after they had returned to port over the weekend, seeking safety when a Georgetown Seafoods trawler was hijacked.

GFL Chairman, Cde Robert Williams, explained yesterday that some of his boats cut short their search for shrimp and returned to port after hearing that a Georgetown Seafoods Limited trawler, "Astronaut", was robbed at the mouth of the Demerara River while returning to shrimping grounds. He said that the boat was forced to return to port to rectify a problem with its motor. And, while on its way back Saturday after the minor repairs the robbery occurred.

While at port the "Astronaut" did not unload its catch because of the length of time this exercise takes. This catch from the partly finished trip was taken

by the hijackers.

Cde Williams said that all of Seafoods' 75 trawlers have returned to port. No member of the "Astronaut" crew was injured in the robbery.

Personnel from Georgetown Seafoods Limited were unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, Cde Williams, has taken the opportunity to again voice his concern about the illegal purchases of shrimp, and is asking members of the public to provide information on these illegal transactions whenever they may be aware of them. He said that the activities are carried out by small boats which are used to approach the trawlers and the owners purchase a part of the catch.

He stated that many such transactions occur at the mouth of the Demerara River and behind the Stabroek Market. He added that the racket is increasing and the illegal traders are scooping off the largest shrimp, thereby even further reducing the returns to the shrimping companies because the small shrimp sell for less money.

CSO: 3298/415

GUYANA

CHANGES IN GUYSTAC, GUYMINE TO CUT PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by George Alleyne]

[Text] The Guystac organisation will be restructured and the corporations under this umbrella will be regrouped for improved profitability and efficiency. And, the bauxite industry is to be financed for restoration to profitability by 1989.

This was announced by Minister of Finance, Cde Carl Greenidge, during his presentation of the 1985 budget proposals to the National Assembly on Friday. These structural changes and additional financing for development of the public sector are part of a strategy of "rapidly reducing the deficit and bringing it within the bounds of prudent, as opposed to dysfunctional, financial policy."

He explained that ignoring borrowing, the local financial resources of the Central Government comprise mainly taxes, other imposts, and dividends from the state enterprises. He said that corporations' public sector finances were realised because their after-tax surpluses net of dividends have traditionally been large enough to compensate for the imbalance between the Central Government revenues and expenditures. But, since 1981, the Government deficit has been compounded by public sector losses as a whole.

Cde Greenidge explained the probable catastrophic results of some choices out of the situation. He mentioned the drawing-in of imports and a rise in inflation, and said that because there are no foreign reserves on which to rely, undesirable effects like the parallel market will become entrenched national features.

He spoke of the immediate task of progressively reducing the overall public sector deficit while pursuing national development priorities, and advised: "To be consistent with this strategy our financial policy must be geared to ensuring that we live within our means. To do otherwise would be to seek to live within other people's means."

He listed 10 initiatives for achievement of the set goals. Among these 10 is a move to "reorganise" the public corporations in pursuit of the generation of surpluses by state enterprises taken as a whole. Deny transfers to those

enterprises whose detailed plans do not indicate a return to profitability of a significant attention of their losses in the medium term."

Within this initiative the Guystac Group of Companies will be divided into four groups, each of which will be controlled by a Supervisory Council that is responsible for giving policy guidance. These Councils will each be chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister.

The companies involved in this division do not include the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation, the Guyana National Newspapers Limited and related entities, all of which will continue to be supervised by their subject ministry until an appropriate corporate grouping has been devised for them. This should be completed this year.

Utilities, agriculture-based entities, commercial companies (group 1), and commercial companies (group 2) are the four groupings for the restructured Guystac.

The Guyana Rice Board, for which legislation has already been passed for its splitting into three corporate entities, is included in the Guystac Group of agriculture-based entities. The new corporate bodies to manage the rice industry are the Guyana Rice Milling and Marketing Authority, the Guyana Rice Export Board, and the National Padi and Rice Grading Centre.

The finance Minister told the National Assembly that the bauxite industry was subjected to most careful scrutiny for the last four years, "to determine a medium term resuscitation programme for the industry; to decide on the nature of the technical, managerial, financial and marketing support required for the execution of that programme," among other things.

He reported a conclusion that this resuscitation programme, from 1985 to 1989, would require the expenditure of \$91 million US. He envisaged that at the end of the five-year programme the industry will be restored to sustained profitability.

CSO: 3298/415

GUYANA

ELECTRICITY CORPORATION BRINGS CO-OP THRUST TO OPERATIONS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Jan 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) has started to cooperativise its operations, with the new appointment of representatives of two local organisations as members of the corporation.

Electricity consumers and trade union representatives were appointed members of the corporate entity in an announcement on January 4.

The two appointments, a GEC release noted, signal a move toward cooperativisation of GEC in keeping with the directions of a policy paper on "cooperativism" published by the ruling People's National Congress, recommending some control by noncapitalist groups over institutions which affect citizens' lives.

New members of GEC are the Chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Consultative Council (ECCC) and the Grievance Officer, Manpower Citizens' Association (MPCA), the union representing nonmanagement employees of GEC.

The two new non-Executive members join two other non-Executive members representing the State and the National Energy Authority, and five management-level employees of GEC, who are the Executive members of the Corporation.

GEC explained that the policy paper "Cooperativism," published in October 1980, dealt with, in part, the right of a citizen to participate directly or indirectly in all such areas which fundamentally affect his life.

The paper added that "the idea is to allow all noncapitalist groups in society, whose interests are fundamentally affected by the operations of the institution, some control over the operations of the institution."

It said "in cases such as the Electricity Corporation, membership can be made up of the workers, the consumers and the State." (GNA)

CSO: 3298/415

GUYANA

HOYTE EXHORTS GOLD, DIAMOND MINERS, SETS TARGETS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Jan 85 p 5

[Article by George Alleyne]

[Text] At a meeting with Guyana's gold and diamond miners Tuesday, Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte rescinded an earlier projection of 15,000 ounces of gold to be mined this year, and called on the prospectors to turn in in excess of one ton of gold for 1985.

He declared this new production target for the industry after stating that he never accepted the old one because he knew that the miners can do better. Similar sentiments had been expressed by the Prime Minister, who retains responsibility for production, when he addressed miners at the Miner of the Year awards ceremony on December 19.

On this occasion he was speaking at an extraordinary general meeting of the Gold and Diamond Miners' Association at the Hotel Tower. The meeting was decided upon after Cde Hoyte met a team from the Miners' Association last Friday.

The new target for gold production that the Prime Minister confidently said could be surpassed is equal to 26 800 ounces, but the target for diamonds remains at 10 000 carats.

In his Tuesday evening address, Cde Hoyte spoke of the close working relationship between the Government and the precious minerals miners and commended the Miners' Association for the role it plays in the field of consultation.

"We are concerned with the mineral resources of this country, admittedly gold and diamond, at this particular time." He said, that the mineral resources of this country belong to the people of Guyana, and every citizen is entitled to mine those resources and get a fair return for labour, risk, hardship, investment, and general spirit.

But on the other hand, people of the country are entitled to reasonable returns for the exploitation of their resources. He said that there was a need to strike that "happy balance" in this field of endeavour.

Cde Hoyte said that the Miners' Association was doing a good job in ensuring that balance, and it was the duty of all miners to become members.

"The day of the lone wolf is really past," and belongs to legends.

In emphasising the great value of the miners coming together to pool resources, he remarked that those who administer the state would be in a difficult situation if they were to be advised by every individual miner.

The Prime Minister assured the meeting that he would not mislead them into believing that persons on the Government's side, namely the Geology and Mines Commission and the Guyana Gold Board, understood the ramifications of the industry and that the technicians understood the intricacies of digging for gold.

Therefore, he reasoned, it has been decided that Government and the Miners' Association would meet regularly, and not only when problems arise. But, he advised, the body needs to set a standard of conduct for its members. He spoke of the need for camaraderie in this "consultative forum": "We cannot have a state of anarchy in which miners want to destroy each other."

He said that the Miners' Association must have the respect not only of Government and the miners, but also the society, "One must not expect the society to be a haven for wrong-doers and those who make it a practice of breaking the law."

As for Government officials, they have a particular duty to miners and it is not to be done by being a boss, but by serving and helping each miner to do his best. He said that he did not want miners to regard officials as enforcers, and urged the Government agencies to try to find people doing things right, not to set out to find people doing things wrong.

"Walk the extra mile," the Prime Minister implored.

He said that the situation had gone well beyond the stage of discrimination between Government and miners. He asked all involved in the industry to cooperate as good Guyanese for the benefit of the country and industry, and to recognise that they have a friend in the agencies.

CSO: 3298/416

GUYANA

WATER CRISIS IN CAPITAL, COASTAL AREAS CONTINUES

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 27 Jan 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] Residents along the coastal and riverain areas, especially in Greater Georgetown, are experiencing great hardship as the pressure in the taps has continued to grow less and in many areas there is no water to be had for most of the day.

As a result pipes continue to be broken, which only adds to the problem.

The water in the city is also filled with sediment.

At Shelter Belt only one of the seven wells is working. A new well was recently sunk and should have been flowing already, but the reconstituted pump it was to use had to be lent to the Central Ruimveldt well, the pump for which had broken down.

There is much water in the Lamaha Canal, but one of the raw water pumps is down and will not be back in service for another three weeks.

The filter beds need a special type of sand which can be supplied by the dredge operating on the Essequibo, but efforts over the past few months to get a load discharged in the city have up to now been unsuccessful.

The residents of Angricola on the East Bank can look forward to some relief later this year as the EEC is providing equipment for sinking a well there and the equipment should arrive before the end of February.

As one well is repaired or renewed, however, another ceases to function. Until the old system is substantially renewed, there is little hope of more water flowing from the taps.

CSO: 3298/416

GUYANA

DETAILS ON CUBAN JOINT COMMISSION TALKS, ACCORDS

Chairman's Agenda

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Jan 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by Vanessa Cort: "Chairman Calls for Completion of All Projects This Year"]

[Text] The Tenth Session of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission opened yesterday morning with a call by Commission Chairman, Dr Richard Van West-Charles, for completion of all projects this year.

Addressing both the Guyanese and Cuban members of the Commission at Bidco House the Chairman said he was satisfied with last year's achievement of 80 percent project completion.

He attributed this level of success to the innovative introduction of a mid-year meeting to review project progress and noted that the Commission began with 69 projects in 1984, and this had swollen to 94.

Tracing development of projects over the years since commencement of the Commission, Cde Van West-Charles commented: "We have grown, we have developed.

Commitment

He however exhorted commission members to strive for improvement and spoke of the commitment of both governments to intensify cooperation, particularly within the agricultural sector this year.

The Commission Chairman placed the group's activities in the broader context of economic cooperation among developing countries.

"In fact economic cooperation among developing countries is the essence of our collaboration," he told the meeting.

And calling ten years of working together a "significant hallmark," the Chairman observed that it had not been a "dormant relationship."

"It was full of life," he remarked, "there was growth every year."

Exchanges

He told the Cuban delegation that during the course of the deliberations, they would be afforded opportunities to see tangible efforts made in Guyana to attain self-reliance.

These moves, he said, were made possible through the nation's own efforts and through exchanges with countries like Cuba.

Head of the Cuban delegation, Cde Alfonzo Diaz, concurred with the Chairman on the progress made by the Commission and the need for total completion of projects this year.

He felt that over the years, the Commission had been able to identify problem areas and should be optimistic that relations will be even more beneficial this year.

Cde Diaz pointed out that cooperation between the two countries had come as a result of initiatives taken by the leaders, governments and parties of both countries and hence were destined to be fruitful.

Pleasure

He particularly commended the Chairman for his personal efforts to see that projects were brought to fruition.

The Cuban delegation leader expressed his pleasure at being in Guyana, saying that Guyanese hospitality made him feel very much at home.

Talks continued yesterday on a variety of matters, including industrial and economic cooperation projects and education and cultural cooperation at the boardrooms of the Ministry of Agriculture and Office of the President, respectively.

Talks resume today with further discussions on the same topics at the same venues.

Boost for Agriculture

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jan 85 pp 1, 5

[Article by Vanessa Cort]

[Text] Guyana's agriculture sector is to receive a significant boost under a Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission agreement signed last night.

A school of medicine is also to be established in September of this year and a language school begun at the University of Guyana.

These announcements were made by Commission Chairman Dr Richard Van West-Charles, after four days of talks between delegations from the two countries.

The talks centred around four basic areas of cooperation--economic and technical, barter trade and line-of-credit, agricultural and industrial. Discussion on a fourth area--educational and cultural--has been postponed until later in the first quarter of this year.

Cde Van West-Charles said that a team of Cuban experts is due to arrive in Guyana in 30 days to define the precise areas of technical assistance required for the agricultural sector.

He, however, revealed that the livestock industry and citrus cultivation will be among the areas to benefit from the agreement.

The barter trade arrangement has been set at over G\$3 million, an increase over last year's level. The barter trade will be conducted with principally the same products which include timber, rice and furniture, on the Guyanese side and cement from the Cubans, who are examining additional areas for inclusion.

A G\$2.5 million line-of-credit has been renewed, the CHRONICLE was told.

The Cuban delegation, led by Agriculture Minister Adolfo Diaz leaves the country today.

Earlier the leaders of both delegations commented on the outcome of the talks, with Cde Van West-Charles inviting his counterpart to return to Guyana.

The Commission Chairman said that he felt a further visit was necessary for Cde Diaz to "feel" a little more the pace of development in Guyana.

He felt the talks had permitted the two sides to gain more knowledge about each other and the systems which operate in the two countries.

They were, too, he said, a continuing demonstration, particularly to countries in this hemisphere, of the importance of South-South cooperation.

Cde Diaz, in his response, said that he saw opportunities for the further expansion of relations between the two countries.

He said that Cuba would make all efforts to attain the total completion of the projects identified so that future years would see additional areas being undertaken.

Despite an internationally difficult financial climate, which he said was created by "imperialist interests," the Cuban Minister said that developing countries could still achieve their goals.

This, he observed, was being illustrated by Cuba and Guyana through the friendship and mutual understanding displayed under the Joint Commission.

Projects for 1985

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 85 pp 1, 5

[Article by Kamini Persaud: "108 Projects in 19 Sectors Identified"]

[Text] After four days of intense discussions, the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission meeting ended on a high note Monday night, with the two countries agreeing to expand trade and broaden cooperation covering several other sectors.

The two non-aligned and developing countries have identified 108 projects in 19 sectors on which they will work together during 1985.

Both sides are optimistic that most, if not all, of the Joint Commission's 1985 work programme will be completed by December.

But these agreements for economic, agricultural, industrial and scientific collaboration constituted merely one side of this year's Joint Commission session, another significant aspect of which has been the cultural programme to mark ten years of intensive collaboration between Guyana and Cuba.

These cooperation talks and the accompanying cultural activities, a blend of the formal and informal, have reflected the warmth of bilateral relations between the two countries, and a growing camaraderie between their two peoples.

It was in 1972 that Guyana led the way in the English-speaking Caribbean in establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba. And in 1975, the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission was established, paving the way for wideranging and effective collaboration.

Expressing optimism at the closing session, Cde Richard Van West-Charles leader of the Guyana delegation to the talks said he was confident that the entire 1985 work programme will be completed because "we are beginning to know each other better...we are beginning to understand the systems operating in each other's country better."

Cuba's Agriculture Minister Adolfo Diaz Suarez also holds our great hope for the strengthening of relations between Guyana and Cuba.

He stressed Monday night that Guyana and Cuba were in a position to demonstrate to the Third World the effectiveness of economic collaboration between developing countries.

As a result of this year's Joint Commission talks, Guyana stands to benefit particularly in the agriculture and health sectors.

Cde Van West-Charles has spoken of the possibility of launching post-graduate studies in medicine at the Georgetown Hospital sometime this year.

It is understood that legume and citrus cultivation and the establishment of a poultry production centre in Guyana are among major areas in the agriculture sector in which the two countries will cooperate.

Cooperation in improving Guyana's transportation sector has also been earmarked for this year. Among other things, Cuba is to help in the rehabilitation of buses. Two Cuban engineers, it is understood, are already attached to the Ministry of Transport.

The establishment of a Foreign Languages Institute at The University of Guyana, joint research in medicinal plants, the development of solar dryers and the upgrading of quarantine services in Guyana are other areas in which the two countries will collaborate.

There is no doubt that the 10th meeting of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission will go down in history as a memorable occasion and as Cde Van West-Charles puts it, "a significant landmark" in a relationship which "has not been dormant," but which has grown from year to year.

Trade Benefits

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Jan 85 p 8

[Article by Vanessa Cort]

[Text] Producers of goods not traditionally used in international trade are to benefit from the just-concluded agreement between Guyana and Cuba.

According to an official at the Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), the Barter Protocol has been extended to examine these new areas of trade.

The barter trade committee discussed the exportation of wooden as well as Nibbi furniture to Cuba, along with lesser known species of wood.

Certain alcoholic beverages and salted fish were also considered under the protocol in exchange for Cuban raw materials to some industries.

The intensification of trade arrangements resulted from a review of barter arrangement between the two countries during the Joint Commission talks which ended earlier this week.

Since Guyana entered the barter arena, it was felt that steps could be taken to increase the scope of this method of trading between the two countries.

The DIEC official stated that the Barter Protocol allowed for other products to be added during the course of the year. Meanwhile, details of technical assistance for seven new transport projects, especially in the field of air transport, have been worked out between Guyana and Cuba. According to a spokesman from the Guyanese team on the technical committee, the Cubans are also to assist with upgrading Guyana's quarantine facilities.

There is to be joint research on cassava starch utilisation, assistance with toxicity tests and continued help with manpower development. The research work will be conducted by the Institute of Applied Science and Technology and its Cuban equivalent.

An exchange programme between the two countries will result in Cuban lecturers coming here to provide assistance in such fields as agriculture and Guyanese teachers of English going to Cuba.

Commission Chairman, Dr Richard Van West-Charles, revealed Monday night that 12 Guyanese teachers of intermediate and higher English are due to leave soon for Cuba.

CSO: 3298/409

GUYANA

BRIEFS

DANIELS TO SURINAME--President of the Guyana Trades Union Congress Cde George Daniels left the country yesterday afternoon for Suriname where he will represent the local trades union movement at the thirty fourth anniversary of the De Moederbond Trade Union Movement. The week of activities of the organization began Monday. He is due to return to the country on Sunday to chair a meeting of the Executive Council of the Guyana Public Service Union, of which he is the president. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Jan 85 p 3]

FINES FOR PPP MEMBERS--Nine members of the People's Progressive Party were yesterday each fined \$35 after they were found guilty on a charge of disorderly behavior. The court was told that on May 28 last Moses Nagamootoo, Navia Chandrapaul, Harold Snagg, Jack Anand, Rajendra Bissessar, Anand Persaud, Shinlodan, Gail Texiera and Abdol Majeed of Robb Street, Lacytown were chanting in loud voices outside Parliament Buildings on Brickdam. They were each given one month to pay the fine. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 85 p 8]

CSO: 3298/416

JPRS-LAM-85-027
26 March 1985

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

PHYSICIAN ON PRESIDENT'S HEALTH--President Roberto Suazo Cordova's personal physician, Dr Roberto Zapata Dubon, asserted today that the president does not need open heart surgery. He asserted that the president's health is perfect even though, he added, like any other person of his age the president risks suffering another heart attack. The physician said that for the time being the only problem is that the president is somewhat overweight, but that they are working so Suazo Cordova can lose some weight. [Text]
[Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Mar 85 PA]

CSO: 3248/268

MONTSERRAT

NEW NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTY HOLDS PUBLIC RALLY

Cassell, Arthurton Remarks

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 25 Jan 85 p 10

[Text] Former civil servants, Mr. Kenneth Cassell and Mr. Percy Arthurton, were among frontline speakers at the first public meeting of the National Development Party in Plymouth last night.

Cassell, who was Permanent Secretary to Chief Minister John Osborne until his forced retirement in 1983, thought that the present Chief Minister was "ill-equipped by background and education to deal with the foreign company executives to explore investment opportunities for Montserrat."

"Let put it another way, E no gat de brain o de education foo deal wid dem," he declared.

He claimed that the British Government had recognized the Chief Minister's weaknesses and was not inclined to assist with the development of Little Bay, Mr. Osborne's pet project.

Mr. Cassell, who was Mr. Osborne's travelling companion on many overseas trips, recalled one embarrassment he had experienced. He claimed that after the President of a company listened to the Chief Minister, he asked: "Ken, is Montserrat the backside of the Caribbean?"

"In all seriousness, the image which the Chief Minister portrays to foreign investors as Montserrat's head of government gives Montserrat a very low rating among Caribbean countries," he added.

Mr. Arthurton stressed the need for a full flow of information between Government and people.

"If the democratic process is to work as it should, it is the duty of every citizen, every voter and those soon to be of voting age to be informed of what is happening so that when they come to cast their votes they would be in a good position to make an intelligent choice," he declared.

Chairman Steve Adolphus introduced members of the NDP's steering committee who were not listed to speak. They were Mr. Levons Watts, Mr. Roy Daley, Mr. Dave Fenton and Nick Ryan.

Weekes Attack on Osborne

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 25 Jan 85 p 10

[Text] Mr. John Stanley Weekes, a former Attorney General of Montserrat, underlined his competence in the area of constitutional law during last night's inaugural meeting of the National Democratic Party at the War Memorial.

"I drafted the law to bring the National Trust into being and I did that all for no hope of any reward save that I have served my country," he said.

Like other speakers, Mr Weekes commented on what he called "the serious conditions on Montserrat."

He said "We can no longer sit back and watch the country fall to the ground.

"The Government has lost all interest in you the people."

Mr Weekes accused Chief Minister John Osborne of saying when asked about his promised handouts to the poor people of Montserrat, "Me nar approve no money foo dem people because dem people dey grudge me, dem no like me."

Edgecombe on Social Justice

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 25 Jan 85 p 10

[Text] The demand for social justice ought to be one of the leading principles of any development programme. So said David Edgecombe while speaking for the National Development party in Plymouth last night.

"Historically, the fate of the poor man everywhere is that he would work hard all of his life and die poor."

The United States, he claimed, is perhaps the only country where this is not the provable norm.

"Whether by accident or design, a society has developed there where the poor, not just from America but from all over the world, have been able to work genuinely to improve their lives and moreso, of their children's lives," he said.

He added: "We, of course, do not have the resources of the great United States, but it seems to me that with the little we have, we ought to aspire to nothing less."

Mr. Edgecombe spoke of the economic uncertainty as a result of an unsound economic base and mentioned the fact that in some areas of the country garbage has not been collected since before Christmas.

Businessman's Remarks

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 25 Jan 85 p 10

[Text] The Island's leading businessman, Mr. B. B. Osborne last night explained the series of events which led him to move into active politics.

Speaking for the National Development Party, he recalled several unsuccessful attempts to persuade the Chief Minister to mend his ways.

Mr. Osborne pointed to the ruling PLM's failure to honour its commitment to set up a consultative committee, the retroactive property tax, the oppressive newspaper ordinance, the sacking of Clifford Ryan from the Port Authority and the independence issue.

"I have come to the conclusion that especially with the present regime (consultation) does not work very well and is almost useless," he declared.

Noting that he was a distant relative of the Chief Minister, Mr. Osborne said: "The blood got mixed up somewhere."

Ex-PLM Official's Speech

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 25 Jan 85 p 10

[Text] Mr. David Brandt, the former Deputy leader of the ruling PLM told a public meeting in Plymouth last night: "We are now governed by incompetents who do not know whether they are going or coming. They are like Alice in Wonderland, instead of leading us forward they are taking us backward, whatever gains we had we have lost them because we have a bad government."

He continued: "You can imagine a family of six with four children to go to school and no money because there is no work."

In the meantime the Ministers of Government boast that they have until 1988 to draw their salaries and after that they will be eligible for pension."

They are not doing the work they are paid to do yet they are getting paid while people who are willing to work cannot get work."

They are laying off people at Public Works and the Chief Minister has directed the Port Authority to lay off thirty per cent of the men who are working at the Port. The men who have worked all their lives at the Port the C.M. has directed the Port Authority to lay them off.

The Ministers are living well while the people are catching hell. Speaking specifically of the Chief Minister, Brandt said: "Last year alone he drew fifty five thousand five hundred and seventy eight dollars and eighty cents for pocket change on his overseas trips and ninety five thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars and fifty cents on airfares."

CSO: 3298/417

MONTSERRAT

PDP OUTLINES POLICY POSITIONS, CASTIGATES PLM

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 18 Jan 85 p 6

[Text]

ADVERTISEMENT

A Message from the PDP

The PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY is greatly concerned about the very serious problems now facing the people of this country.

Tax rates are rising yet Government revenues are insufficient.

Unemployment is rampant. Parents are hard hit by the economic recession.

Qualified school leavers are unable to find jobs.

The Public Works Department has been on a three-day week for over one year.

The high cost of living will increase further after the 1985 budget. The iniquitous Customs Service

Tax is a main contributor to high prices.

Many householders are unable to pay

their bills. Loan repayments are for some people a real problem.

Our national income shows negative growth.

Farmers are discouraged because of the lack of adequate Government support.

There is no effective communication between Government and people.



Based on its experience, its proven concerns for the welfare of people and its established record of performance, honesty understanding and vision, a PDP government would take appropriate initiatives to:

1. Rebuild the Montserrat economy on a solid base.
2. Restore investor confidence.
3. Provide suitable and sufficient job opportunities.
4. Moderate the cost of living pressures.
5. Eliminate corruption and selfseeking from the government political leadership
6. Restore the morale of the civil service.
7. Revitalize the public service
8. Eliminate wasteful spending on foreign trips for personal business.
9. Involve representatives of Management and workers in deliberations on national development policies and programmes.
10. Re-establish the independence of the judiciary.
11. Respect and defend basic freedoms.
12. Uphold fundamental human rights.
13. Introduce and maintain a healthy dialogue between government and people through ongoing radio phone-in programmes.



It's A Very Strong Case

- The Progressive Democratic Party, as its track record shows, is dedicated to the principle of service - not selfishness or self interest. That is why the Progressive Democratic Party, by convention and tradition is structured to prevent and discourage the conflict of interest factor which has driven many political parties with high sounding constitutions down the slippery slope of corruption.
- The mistakes of the ruling PLM have shown that development cannot be achieved without the well proven combination of honesty, integrity and vision.
- The PLM has demonstrated to the people of Montserrat how disastrous the consequences can

be when consensus within the machinery of a political party is achieved on the basis of personal and sectional interests rather than on any genuine attempt to do what is in the best interest of the entire population.

- In terms of issues of urgent national importance, it has been established that "to be silent is to lie." That is why the Progressive Democratic Party, while respecting the right of others to differ with us, boldly question the credentials of those who basked in the luxury of conspicuous silence while the PLM:
 - eroded the principle of the Separation of Powers,
 - undermined the independence of the Judiciary,
 - institutionalized the policy of victimization,
 - destroyed the morale of the Public Service,
 - squandered tax payers money on unnecessary overseas travel,
 - messed up the Development Finance and Marketing Corporation,
 - neglected the economic initiatives which ought to have been taken and
 - destroyed Montserrat's high reputation in regional fora.

IS SILENCE SIGNIFICANT?

**Good Men Do Not
Observe In Silence The
Political Gang-Rape Of
A Virgin Country And
Shout Only When Its
Honour Has Been
Destroyed.**

**"Silence was
the greatest
SIN
of the
Nazi Era."**

American Journalist

Paid for by the Progressive Democratic Party

MONTSERRAT

PLAN TO TREAT TOURISTS' HERPES STIRS POLITICAL ROW

Public Outcry, Party Reactions

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 18 Jan 85 p 10

[Excerpt] An angry public will force foreign-owned Manner Memorial Hospital to abandon its plan to treat North American herpes patients here.

People from all walks of life and political parties are committed to taking direct action, if necessary, to destroy the herpes plan or any other of its type.

Manner Memorial Hospital, a private institution, opened here in October, 1983, to treat patients brought from the developed countries for cancer, arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Lack of Funds Caused Closure

Manner Memorial's Administrator, English-born Ann Della-Valle, confirmed in an exclusive interview with the Times that lack of funds and patients had brought down the curtain on the original programme.

She made it clear that the future of the facility depends on the availability of funds. "We need about US\$125,000," she said.

With the utmost frankness she declared: "Yes, we are considering treating herpes patients, and if we do treat herpes patients they will only be on island for a period of twenty four hours and this does not provide time for the contact by which the disease is transmitted."

In response to the reported public outcry, Miss Della-Valle said: "If the hospital has any hope of reopening I hope we will be entitled to inform, advise and share our intentions as we will also be prepared to listen to any concerns, fears or objections."

But public fury here has been fueled by television reports of stigma which herpes carries in the United States. Parents and teachers at some schools in the U.S. have been demonstrating against the presence of children infected

with herpes even though the Court ruled that they should be admitted if their bodies are completely covered and after medical examinations proved that they do not have lesions.

Mr. Conrad Samuel, a painter and Montserrat's leading caterer thinks "The proposal should be blocked at all costs."

A former member of the Caucus of the ruling People's Liberation Movement, Mr. Samuel declared: "We are a tourist island, we need to preserve our clean and unspoilt image and I am confident that our Government will not allow Manner Memorial Hospital to bring a single herpes patient here.

Manner Memorial has a licence to operate a private hospital.

A senior lawyer said: "I am prepared to carry the banner and lead the march if the Government leaves it to the people to block the plan."

The leader of the opposition Progressive Democratic Party, Mr. P. Austin Bramble, JP, thinks Government is as angry as he is by "this affront to the dignity of Montserrat and Montserradians."

"I am sure that Chief Minister Osborne and his fellow Ministers have already decided to move swiftly to safeguard us."

The adverse reaction to the herpes plan is not all printable.

The Medical Director of Manner Memorial Hospital, Dr. Ronnie Cooper, a Government Medical Officer is also under fire for his association with the institution "tainted with the herpes plan."

Editorial Comment

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 18 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] The angry public reaction to Manner Memorial Hospital's proposed entry into the herpes treatment business is understandable. Montserradians may not be the most educated people in the Third World, but television has brought home to them the terrible stigma which herpes carries in scientifically advanced America.

Since the vast majority of our tourists come from the United States, it is not exactly unlearned to conclude as Mr. Conrade Samuel has done that "herpes and tourism cannot be mixed." In addition to the adverse manner in which the herpes plan can affect our tourist industry, Montserradians think that their island should not become a centre for experimentation with the problematic contagious diseases of other countries.

Government probably erred in not limiting Manner Memorial Hospital's licence to the treatment of specific ailments, but the company retained an adviser who is a leading politician of the ruling party and that individual should be called upon to explain his position. Was he aware of the herpes plan?

If so, did he advise the company drop it and any other of its kind?

The gentleman in question would be the first to emphasize his great interest in the well being of Montserrat and the preservation of the island's good name. Could it be that the good people of Montserrat are getting another reminder of the perils which come to the fore when conflicting interests affect the judgement of politicians?

This newspaper has every right to blame Chief Minister John Osborne for many of the economic and political problems now facing the island. But let us be counted among those who firmly believe that Mr. Osborne, who does not drink red wine because it resembles blood, will oppose this herpes plan with all the power at his command.

Montserratians who were employed by Manner Memorial Hospital will endure hardship. We can only pray that that hardship will be temporary.

CSO 3298/418

PERU

BRIEFS

BARRANTES FAVORS ENDING CONTRACTS--Peru's United Left Presidential Candidate Alfonso Barrantes Lingan has said he favors the cancellation of State Petroleum Agency, PETROPERU, contracts with U.S. transnational companies on oil exploitation. Barrantes made that statement in a document that was distributed to newsmen and delegates attending an international meeting in the Peruvian capital, on the subject: Oil, An Answer to the World. The presidential candidate of Peru's leftist coalition stated in this document that PETROPERU can only maintain agreements with U.S. oil consortiums under terms that are compatible with Peru's national sovereignty. Earlier, in a statement to Spanish newspaper EL PAIS, Alfonso Barrantes Lingan stated that the United Left hopes to install a democratic regime, which will truly be of the people so as to be able to overcome the grave crisis affecting that South American country. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 85]

APRA LEADER PRAISES CASTRO--Armando Villanueva, leader of American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] of Peru, has said that he considers Cuba's Fidel Castro a great leader and patriot of Latin America, and that thus far, Cuba has made great advances in solving the unemployment problem, as well as in the fields of education, public health, housing, and so forth. Villanueva made this statement to a Peruvian television station. He said that Fidel Castro has suggested the creation of a common Latin American front to resolve our biggest problems, especially that of the foreign debt--which is so great a burden on these countries--and this is a very important position. [Text] [Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 21 Feb 85]

CSO: 3348/456

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HIGHLIGHTS OF QUAMINA REPORT ON CHALLENGES FACING PNM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] Indiscipline, unpunctuality, discourtesy and absenteeism in the Public Service must be attacked effectively in 1985, the General Secretary of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) has told the PNM in a memorandum to the party's General Council.

This is one of a 12-point action plan Mr. Alvan Quamina submitted for implementation in 1985, a year which he warned must be viewed as an "emergency" one for the party.

When it was first presented to the Council late last month it was withdrawn on the ground that it was not drawn up in consultation with the party's Chairman, Mr. Francis Prevatt.

The document was, however, taken to Tuesday's meeting of the PNM's Central Executive and, according to reports, it will be raised again at the next meeting of the Council on February 24.

In a preamble to the recommendations, Mr. Quamina explained it was a crystallisation of views expressed to him by members and supporters of the PNM and were geared towards the General Elections due in 1986.

Among the "identifiable challenges" facing the PNM as a party and the Government to which the party must urgently address itself were certain charges levelled by the electorate.

These included:

--That as a party and government we have lost the will and, therefore, the capacity to govern. The Opposition, both in Tobago and Trinidad, have sought subtly and not so subtly to exploit this by ensuring that they manifest an appearance of action at their levels.

Non-Performance

--Too often the Ministerial response to an issue today is reminiscent of the response of the PNM Local Government representatives in 1983 and prior--a litany of excuses for non-performance and under-performance;

--The electorate charges we have shown an inability to identify and deal decisively with corruption at all levels;

--Stalwart PNM members have demonstrated total frustration and charge us continually with an apparently inability to give consideration to our own rank and file members and supporters in respect of housing, jobs, water, electricity and telephones;

--There is a perception that the PNM favoured the already rich and powerful. We appear, they say, to have embarked upon a programme of self-destruction by neglecting to place known members and/or supporters of ability and expertise upon boards and commissions, making it very easy for our policies and programmes to be sabotaged.

The first item in the 12-point suggested plan was the hiring of a public relations firm (possibly from outside Trinidad and Tobago) to scientifically discover what might be the true image and standing of the PNM in the country today.

Other recommendations include:

--The PNM must assume responsibility NOW for finding the best possible candidates for 1986; as well, the records of incumbents vis-a-vis their constituency groups must be seriously examined to determine their suitability to be returned as candidates;

--Certain issues must be met head-on and dealt with decisively such as ISCOTT (greater explanation and information); corruption, (examples must be made);

--The public utilities must be made to function more responsively to meet the needs/demands of the population--or explain publicly why they have not done so;

---A very serious look must be taken at the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development which has become infested with Opposition personnel who have set out to frustrate PNM member and the enunciated policies of the Government;

--Serious attention must be given to winning the middle class and upper lower class in the society as exemplified in the residents of the various new housing areas. Of specific relevance in this context is the fact that the housing programme has unwittingly served to dislocate many very ardent, hard working PNM members and supporters who have become effectively neutralised by virtue of being outnumbered in the area to which they have moved.

Counselling that if even the problems identified in the Public Service cannot be dealt with comprehensively, Mr. Quamina added:

"Careful attention must be given to winning back the allegiance of public servants in general, including the protective services, where many are openly and actively opposed to the party and the Government."

In a separate seven-item recommendation on Tobago Mr. Quamina advised that a recognised Tobagonian should be appointed at least at the level of Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Tobago Affairs.

Steps should also be made to ensure that PNM members are not discriminated against when labour was being recruited for public works.

CSO: 3298/429

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DONALDSON SAYS REMARKS ON THREAT 'TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 10 Feb 85 p 3

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

WHO WERE the people planning against the national interest to whom Minister of National Security John Donaldson referred when he spoke at the opening of the new office of the Chief of the Defence Staff at Chaguaramas on January 29 and what has the Minister done about them?

This was the question put by Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday in the House of Representatives on Friday on adjournment of the House at 6 p.m. Panday said Donaldson had indicated that many groups had been spending much time planning against the national interest. He also referred to a subsequent newspaper report in which the minister was quoted as saying these people had guns "to shoot you and me."

"The effect of the Minister's statement at the opening of that office was to threaten the entire nation," Panday insisted. "If the Minister really knew these things he should have spoken about them first of all in this House. By leaving it open-ended and not naming these names he is threatening the people of this nation; he might be referring to the Opposition or any other group; we don't know. He has a duty to arrest these people and bring them to court."

Panday suggested the Minister might be paranoid

and said his action had aroused all kinds of suspicions and anxieties. The Speaker would not allow Panday to refer to the Minister in this way. Panday also suggested the Minister was setting up a warrior class in the society. "This is all highly irresponsible."

The Minister of National Security began his reply by assuring Panday and other members that he had no history of paranoia. He could show Panday some of these arms if he liked. He pointed out that what he had said on the relevant occasion had to be considered in context.

"I was opening the new office of the Chief of the Defence Staff who is on the staff of the Ministry of National Security," the Minister explained. "A certain type of person was invited to that function and I had to be open with them, and this involved trust." He said the remark about guns "to shoot me and you," had been made casually to a young journalist over drinks, and was taken out of context. He hadn't expected it to be reported the way it was. Other reports of arms had appeared in the same paper before then.

When he made reference to people being "professional warriors" he was simply paying them the highest compliment. "I don't need the privilege of this House to say things, which is why I didn't say them here," he pointed out. "And I never mention people's names just like that. I am a negotiator."

CSO: 3298/429

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MANNING SAYS GOVERNMENT CAN ACCEPT OIL IN LIEU OF MONEY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] San Fernando: Rep. Patrick Manning Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, said yesterday that recent changes in petroleum tax legislation will now allow Government the alternative of collecting its royalties in oil rather than in money.

His comments were made during a press conference at the offices of Amoco Trinidad Ltd., Point Galeota, Guayaguayare.

He had earlier held discussions with Amoco officials and went on to tour the company's operations.

Mr. Manning explained that the recent adjustment in the tax regime gave Government the flexibility to take its royalty in oil or money.

The new measure is an adjustment made in the last legislation providing a new tax regime for marine areas, he explained.

The Minister explained, too, that the measure would facilitate the amount of oil available for the domestic refining sector.

He pointed out that the amount of oil collected might be a relatively small amount. Questioned later, he declined to state whether it was a measure designed to ensure supplies for Texaco.

Yesterday's tour was part of the Minister's Annual visits and discussions with the energy-based industries.

The royalty is 12-1/2 per cent of production.

Mr. Manning stated on the question of crude that for every one dollar decrease in price of light crudes, giving a global figure, Trinidad and Tobago stood to lose \$50 million a year, while pointing out that Amoco, which is the largest crude producer in the country, is producing very light crude.

Upgrading Capacity

He said that the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery essentially started off as a fuel-oriented refinery and that there is some upgrading capacity in it.

"With respect to Amoco crude, that is very light. The Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, as we understand it in the Ministry of Energy, cannot profitably refine, cannot maximise from the Amoco crude. Revenues to the country or the returns to the refinery on the basis of large quantities of East Coast Amoco crudes. It might be able to deal with relatively small quantities of the East Coast crudes together with other crude that would normally go through that refinery."

He said that had implications. "That, and the fact that certain changes have now been made in the tax legislation which facilities, without going into details, the Government taking its royalties in oil rather than in money if it so wishes."

On the tax question, he said: "You are looking at 12-1/2 per cent of the production of Amoco which is being taken in oil which is a relatively small quantity of oil which perhaps can be refined in the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery without intolerable losses." One can only tell that when the actual calculations are done."

He said that it is highly technical.

"Are you saying that is actually what is going to be done this year?" Mr Manning was asked. He replied that he did not say that.

He said it might well be. It was an option available to the Government. If that option turned out to be economically feasible, then the Government might do it. If not, they would do something else.

However, he pointed out, the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery is now owned by Texaco.

Mr Manning said that taking oil as opposed to money was not a barter arrangement.

He said that the economics of that would have to be worked out. Before one went into something like that, one had to work the figures out, taking into consideration the corresponding product prices as they prevailed on world market prices, among other things.

"So that you will never know exactly what the outcome would be until you work it out on a current basis and see what it works out to be.

"What we do know is that generally if large quantities of Amoco crudes are put into the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, you will make less money on it than if you had sold it directly as crude abroad. This is from a governmental standpoint on tax," said the Minister.

He said that the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery had something like 2,500 workers. And to the extent if crude is available to the refinery it would continue operating. To the extent that crude is not available to the refinery the refinery could be closed down to the effect of putting 2,500 people out jobs together with the social consequences it would have and it was not just a question of dollars and cents.

Mr Manning said that he wanted to make it clear that he never said that was what was going to be done.

"I said that it is one option. One possibility that has to be examined with other possibilities in coming to a conclusion as to the direction we are likely to take."

On the question of Trintoc supplying 37,000 barrels of crude to the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, Mr Manning said that arrangement would continue as long as necessary.

CSO: 3298/429

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MAHABIR REVIEWS RETRENCHMENT IN PUSHING SEVERANCE PAY BILL

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] Fifteen thousand workers have been retrenched in Trinidad and Tobago over the last three years, Labour Minister Errol Mahabir disclosed in the House of Representatives yesterday.

And many of them, he said while piloting a Bill to provide severance benefits for retrenched workers, were sent home without any financial compensation.

Minister Mahabir pointed out that no one could give an accurate figure about the number of persons actually retrenched and after accusing some firms of doing this clandestinely as a first resort, he appealed for rational thinking from all concerned in ensuring better industrial relations which would ultimately result to the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago.

Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, who criticised several aspects of the Bill and said Government was presiding over the retrenchment of workers, praised Mr Mahabir for agreeing that retrenchment benefits would now become the first charge on a company assets when it goes into liquidation.

Also at yesterday's sitting, Health Minister Senator Dr. Neville Connell said that the new Arima Hospital will be constructed at a cost of \$23.3 million with the first phase to start in November.

He also said that the \$13.7 million Dental Nursing School in Arima will be completed by the end of next month.

Lack of Dialogue

Mr. Mahabir, who refuted the Employers' Consultative Association's (ECA) charge that the Bill was contrary to consensus arrived at in tripartite discussions and that it would not encourage investment by the private sector, said in 1984 alone his Ministry received complaints from 200 persons about being sent home without any severance pay.

He said that employers did not generally report to his Ministry when workers were being laid off and very often the Ministry received this information from the newspapers and data supplied by trade unions.

Lamenting the lack of dialogue from all sides on the issue of retrenchment, Minister Mahabir noted that there was a certain amount of callousness in this regard and referred to one real estate company which simply sent home workers, some with considerable service, with just two weeks notice.

Emphasising that retrenchment through redundancy was taking place in a casual manner, Mr. Mahabir argued that in most collective agreements there was no specific formula to deal with this matter and mentioned the Texaco/-OWTU industrial agreement.

On the ECA charge, Mr. Mahabir gave Parliament a comprehensive picture of the tripartite discussions and stressed the consensus was reached on the need for retrenchment legislation.

Winding up his opening delivery, Mr Mahabir said that in the final analysis legislation was not the panacea for retrenchment or unemployment.

Mr. Mahabir, who also referred to a letter he received yesterday from Dr. Zin Henry, one of the key figures in the tripartite talks on the ECA's charges, said:

"It has to do with the general attitude of the people, of a willingness of employers to take reduced profits at this time, or workers to be more productive and for the unions to make less stringent demands from employers.

"This is a challenge for all of us. We are going through a very challenging period and it is up to all of us to make Trinidad and Tobago a better place to live."

In his letter, Dr. Henry said the ECA's statement to the effect that a compromise was reached on a period of 30 days for unionised and 21 days for non-unionised workers with respect to notices of proposed retrenchment was not correct.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OPPOSITION HITS GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REVISE WAGE-HIKE DECISION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] The opposition charged in Parliament yesterday that the Board of Caroni Limited had received instructions from either the Cabinet or the Board's chairman, Mr. Frank Rampersad, that it should appeal the decision of the Industrial Court to grant increased wages to the workers of Caroni.

Just before the tea adjournment the issue raised the ire of the Opposition, so much so that the Opposition Chief Whip, Rep. Nizam Mohammed, threatened "war" between himself and Labour Minister Errol Mahabir if the Minister did not give an undertaking that an appeal would be filed.

Mr. Mohammed branded the issue as "the most important" ever to come up in the debate on the Severance Pay Bill, which has been debated for three days in the House of Representatives.

'Starvation Wages'

Recent developments in Caroni, Mr. Mohammed said, was a move by the Government designed to keep sugar workers at "starvation wages" based on the 1982 agreement.

His colleague, Mr. Kelvin Ramnath, accused the Government of not being interested in the working class of the country.

Instead of the House spending time discussing a Bill to deal with "a little pittance for retrenched workers," Mr. Ramnath said, the House should be hearing of the Government's proposed plan for the future of workers in Caroni as well as the oil industry, especially those in refining.

Only when such plans were aired, he said, would they be in a position to form an assessment of what was the likelihood for retrenchment, or opportunities in the years ahead.

He was the present situation as "only the beginning of a downward slide." In fact he charged that the Government was institutionalising retrenchment as a way of life in the society.

Mr. Ramnath also pointed to loopholes in the legislation through which businessmen would seek to escape the law.

He quoted extensively from yesterday's Guardian front page story, headlined "How to Save the PNM," which, he said indicated that the PNM must continue to discriminate to save itself.

Mr. Ramnath accused the Government of wasting the money over the past years, setting up companies that have operated inefficiently and which had been mis-managed so much so that there were problems now in trying to turn them around.

The money, he said, could have been better spent providing more opportunities for jobs.

Opposition member Winston Dookeran noted that a large of number of workers were excluded from the Bill. In one case, he observed that it excluded about 60 per cent of the workers in the agricultural sector.

He asked whether the Labour Minister could give the assurance that the Act would apply to all workers.

Mr. Dookeran, an economist, said the legislation was not embracing enough, and was not supportive of the economic and social measures to reinforce what was being intended.

"When we look at the support systems which will be put into effect, the legislation is very much constrained," he told the House.

CSO: 3298/429

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

SMUGGLED WEAPONS--More than 100 sophisticated guns are believed to have been smuggled into Trinidad from January to December 1984. An official source said yesterday the weapons, purchased mainly in Miami, could be used for "subversive activities" and by the criminal element. Asked to elaborate on the subversive theory, the source said: "Surely you don't expect me to reveal that information as this is a matter of national security, but we are deeply concerned about this situation." Saying the items entered chiefly at Piarco Airport, the official was asked how could this be possible when there were supposed to be electronic detecting devices. He replied: "It is suspected that assistance is being given at a certain point in the airport to make this frightening situation possible." The source also claimed there was a Cuban connection in the affair and last week three of the guns were located in Trinidad. "We are looking for the other guns," he said. Among them are Smith-Wesson, Titan Tiger, Rossi, Armerium (Revolvers) and pistols such as Beretta and Interdynamics. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Feb 85 p 1]

TALKS WITH VENEZUELA--Two Government Ministers are to review the situation involving alleged encroachment of Trinidad and Tobago waters by Venezuelan authorities. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed, and Minister of External Affairs, Senator Dr Basil Ince, will meet to discuss what has been described as this "delicate situation" tomorrow. The special meeting was called after a delegation of fishermen from the Cedros area complained to the Agriculture Minister about seizure of their vessels and encroachment on this country's fishing areas. During the meeting, the Ministers are expected to decide on a plan for control of trawling in local waters. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Feb 85 p 1]

EXPANDED COAST GUARD ROLE--Recruit Wesley Games, son of former national basketball player, Ralph Gomes, was adjudged the best recruit during three months training and passed out as a coastguardsman at Stauble's Bay yesterday morning. The recruits all smartly dressed, marched past before National Security Minister John Donaldson and a large cross section of the community including relatives and friends. He called on the 25 new coastguardsmen to regard their participation in the Coast Guard and the Defence Force as an opportunity to ensure that "we continue to be a nation and to develop as a people within that secure context." With the acceptance of the Coast Guard as a search and rescue

co-ordinating centre in the Caribbean, its operations with respect to search and rescue have now been extended beyond the boundaries of Trinidad and Tobago, and this has placed a much greater responsibility on the unit, according to the Minister. Other areas of concern in which the Coast Guard's involvement is of importance, he said, were illegal entry of immigrants, smuggling and the illicit traffic in drugs, arms and ammunition. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Feb 85 p 3]

ARREST OF MUSLIM LEADER--Nine member of the Jamaat Al Muslimeen at Mucurapo appeared in court late yesterday afternoon to answer charges of resisting arrest, obstructing the police in the execution of their duty and assaulting the police. Among the defendants appearing in court was Bakr's wife Sajiyyah Abu Bakr. The others were Muhammad Abdul Wadud, Bilaal Abdullah, Hasan Anyabwille, Salim Muwaki, Abdul Hameed, Waysh Abdul Wahid, Isa Nantanbu and Sadiq Alrazi. Bakr was arrested yesterday morning and taken stright to State Prison, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain, to serve a 21-day term of imprisonment for contempt of court. A large party of policemen from the Guard and Emergency Branch and the CID swooped down on the Jamaat Al Muslimeen around 5.30 a.m. yesterday. The police party was led by Assistant Commissioner Ralph Morris. It was reported that Bakr requested some time to complete his morning prayers. But after waiting a while and the leader having failed to return outside, the lawmen went in search of Bakr. This attempt to take Bakr from inside the building brought about resistance from members of the Jamaat. One member received injuries to his head and received medical attention following his arrest. Reports revealed that the police received resistance from members of the Jamaat which resulted in eight men and one woman being arrested. Yesterday's operation was organised by Acting Assistant Commissioner (North) Kenny Mohammed. [Excerpts] [By Francis Joseph] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 85 p 1]

AMOCO EXPLORATION--San Fernando: AMOCO Trinidad Oil Company is expected to spend \$655 million (TT) in 1985 in its exploration and development programme. It will be the largest expenditure that the company will incur in any one year, Mr. Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, said as he addressed members of the news media yesterday at Point Galeota after holding discussions with the company. Mr. Manning said that in 1985 Amoco expects to drill six exploration wells and ten development wells. The exploration costs this year is expected to be \$63 million and development costs \$179 million. Other costs: capital cost \$106 million for a total of \$348 million. "And if operating costs are taken into consideration, a total of \$655 million is expected to be spent by the company this year which is the largest expenditure that the company will incur in any one year," the Minister said. He also spoke of the company's seismic programme and on this matter, Mr. Robert Powers, President of Amoco, said that a seismic boat was due last night to initiate work in that area. At present Amoco's crude is being shipped to the company's Texas refinery in the United States. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 85 p 1]

ALLIANCE ELECTION PREPARATIONS--The political alliance of which Opposition Leader Mr Basdeo Pandy is head is moving to set up its election machinery in preparation for this country's general elections due to be held next year.

The Alliance will meet today at 2.30 p.m. at Rienzi Complex, Couva, to discuss the matter. Mr. Panday said yesterday that they are setting out to build up their election machinery from now. Reports of progress by the various groups in each constituency will be discussed. Also at this meeting, the party's parliamentary arm will discuss strategy to be adopted at both parliamentary and local government levels. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 85 p 1]

TOXIC WASTE PROBE--San Fernando: The National Alliance is to carry out an investigation into the proposed establishment of a toxic chemical waste facility in the Bontour area near Reform Village, South Trinidad. Mr. Basdeo Panday, leader of the Alliance, and Opposition Leader in the House of Representatives, said yesterday that such a toxic dumping ground will definitely affect the lives of thousands of residents and crops. He said he heard that the Solid Waste Management company was contemplating such action. The company he said, can now be subject to a constitutional motion. He felt that residents must consider filing such a motion against the company or government from putting the plan into action. Mr. Panday said that once the residents are satisfied, that their lives would be in danger, they should file the motion to prevent the company from establishing the dump in the area. He explained that the Alliance would do all in its power to prevent that toxic waste facility from being placed in that area. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Feb 85 p 6]

STATISTICAL DIGEST--The Central Statistical Office has announced the release of its Statistical Pocket Digest which contains historical, geographical and financial statistical data. This digest is the eleventh in a series intended to provide timely factual information concerning important aspects of the country and presented in a concise form for easy reference. The report includes statistics on population, ethnic groupings, religion, health, education, prices and income, economic indicators, trade, production, money, banking, Government revenue and expenditure, balance of payments, income per capita, telephones, motor vehicles and travel. The digest is available free from the Central Statistical Office at 23 Park Street, Port-of-Spain, or at the Government Printery Sales Office, 48 St. Vicent Street, Port-of-Spain. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Feb 85 p 3]

CSO: 3298/430

URUGUAY

SANGUINETTI ON RELATIONS WITH EEC

PM041525 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 3-4 Mar 85 p 7

[Interview with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti by Joaquin Sokolowicz in Montevideo; date not given]

[Excerpt] Montevideo--[Sokolowicz] Your government is emerging from an anomalous situation, from amid the restrictions imposed by the military chiefs. How long will it take for the democratic normalization to be completed?

[Sanguinetti] No time, no time at all. The transition to complete normality will be automatic from the very beginning. Total and absolute democracy.

[Sokolowicz] With no institutional constraints?

[Sanguinetti] The agreement reached between the parties and the military in no way affects the functioning of the state authorities. It concerns only three or four norms which will be submitted to the constituent assembly in June. In fact we are simply pledged to discuss these norms, not to approve them. I repeat: We will have a complete democracy. The constraint, if any, is constituted by the situation that we have inherited--and that is a major constraint.

[Sokolowicz] Why do you not agree with the opposition parties' proposal of a general and unrestricted amnesty for political detainees?

[Sanguinetti] Because not all the cases are the same. There are, for instance, people who were detained before the 1973 coup for having tried to overthrow the democratic institutions. As far as those detained under the authoritarian regime are concerned--and their numbers have recently fallen considerably, and now total 200-250--I believe that the measures to be adopted should be examined carefully. An amnesty implies the cancellation of the offense and when the offense is a crime of violence it cannot be cancelled out just like that. If anything, flexible guidelines should be set, with special treatment, reductions of sentences, probationary systems, and perhaps even forms of pardon granted by parliamentary vote. To cancel a crime as though it had not occurred would be tantamount to giving in to violence. Come what may, there will be an amnesty law.

[Sokolowicz] What about crimes committed within the context of repression?

[Sanguinetti] They will be subject to regular legislation, which will act freely and normally.

[Sokolowicz] How do you intend to deal with the foreign debt problem? Uruguay, with less than 3 million inhabitants, has a debt of \$5 billion....

[Sanguinetti] The figure is disastrous not in itself but because it lies within a daunting context: Real incomes are half their level 10 years ago, unemployment affects 15 percent of the labor force, there is a 40 percent deficit in the state budget as regards revenue.... We must act with realism and seek gradual solutions. There are no quick and miraculous remedies. In particular we will support export sectors--the only ones able to create prospects of expansion and to allow the repayment of the debt. At present it is impossible to us even to cope with the interest alone.

[Sokolowicz] Why have you described relations with the EEC as "fundamental"? After all, Uruguay's major problems started when the EEC closed its doors to Uruguay's export products.

[Sanguinetti] Despite all the problems that have divided us, the EEC still accounts for about a third of our foreign commerce, 30-32 percent. The FRG on its own is more important than the United States in this respect. The EEC is fundamental to us as a customer. It is also our major competitor: Indeed, when we sell meat to Egypt or milk to Brazil we encounter the EEC offering the same products, but at subsidized prices. We therefore want to discuss these issues very thoroughly with the EEC.

[Sokolowicz] Do you believe that Italy in particular can contribute to the rebuilding of your country?

[Sanguinetti] Certainly it can do so in many ways. Both within the EEC, by conveying our viewpoints, and in the bilateral context. Italian companies have invested in Uruguay. There is room for more, there is room for Italian technological assistance and financial assistance. We can find various formulas for cooperation. I am convinced that Italy can do a great deal for a country such as mine, whose democracy will be consolidated only through economic development and which will otherwise experience difficulties in the phase now beginning. We need real--not just sentimental, literary, or emotional--solidarity.

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URUGUAY

BRIEFS

URUGUAYAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS--It has been reported in Montevideo that Uruguay and Angola have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. The announcement was made by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias and Angolan Planning Minister Lopo do Nascimento, who attended the inauguration of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 85]

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